

Gorbachev meets Shamir

MADRID (AP) — Yitzhak Shamir met Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday in a historic first encounter between Israeli and Soviet heads of government on the eve of the Madrid-Mideast peace conference. "Less than an hour ago, an historic meeting between President Gorbachev and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ended in this building," the Soviet embassy in Madrid, said Gorbachev spokesman Andrei Grachev. The meeting came two weeks after the Soviet Union ended a 24-year rupture by restoring diplomatic ties with Israel, thus meeting Israel's condition for Soviet participation in the peace talks beginning Wednesday. Mr. Shamir hurried from the embassy to talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and made no immediate comment, but Mr. Grachev portrayed the meeting to reporters as warm and forward-looking — a transformation from the days when Israel treated the Soviet Union as an arch-enemy. "Both sides agreed that both of them were damaged by the absence of diplomatic relations for such a long time. And they expressed hopes that they would be able to make up for this damage," Mr. Grachev said. Mr. Shamir said that he understood Russian "letter" at the end of the conversation than he did at the beginning," the spokesman said.

Jordan Times

Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Abu Jaber briefs Gonzalez

MADRID (Petra) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Tuesday received in his office Jordan's Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, who heads the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference, and Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian side in the joint delegation. In a statement to Petra Dr. Abu Jaber said he briefed the Spanish prime minister on Jordan's perception of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Dr. Abu Jaber added that talks also focused on the principled Jordanian position which is based on international legitimacy, including U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. He said he stressed the need to safeguard Jordan's Arab identity, the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the urgent need for putting an end to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. Dr. Abu Jaber also met with special U.N. envoy to the Middle East Edmond Brunner and heads of Arab delegations attending the peace conference.

Volume 16 Number 4841

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1991, RABIE' AL THANI 22, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Historic Mideast peace conference opens today

From Mahmoud Al Kayed and George Hawatmeh in Madrid

A NEW CHAPTER in Middle East history begins here today with the ceremonial opening of Arab-Israeli negotiations under the umbrella of the internationally assembled conference for regional peace.

Participants and observers agree this is only the beginning of a process whose outcome is far from certain but which is a unique opportunity for finding a solution to the Palestinian problem and the wider Arab-Israeli conflict.

Nobody knows for sure what the results will be. Everyone, however, expects it to be a long and complicated process that can either bring about a fair and lasting settlement or end up in pushing the region towards even greater violence, instability and bloodshed.

"Because the stakes are so high, the Arab side at least has come here determined to give

peace its chance," Arab sources say. The outcome depends on whether the Israelis are willing to give up the territorial gains they made in 1967 in return for peaceful coexistence and good neighborly relations with the Arabs.

The "land-for-peace" formula is straight-forward and simple, but the Israelis have not yet matched Arab acceptance of it.

"Only if and when they do, can the real search for a comprehensive peace begin," according to Arab delegates.

For now, the role of the Madrid conference appears to be aimed at opening direct Arab-Israeli talks without expecting a commitment from Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. Since such a commitment is unlikely without American pressure on Israel, however, the Arab side is contenting itself with promises — direct and in-

direct — of pressure in the course of the process, with the biggest weapon being the American \$10 billion loan guarantees to Israel which will come up for discussion in the U.S. in February.

Israel will have to soften its rejection of trading land for peace not only because of its fear that the Bush administration might decide to deny Israel its request for the \$10 billion when the issue is discussed early next year.

It will be under pressure to do so also because the Arabs have finally met Israel's conditions for face-to-face talks, first at the Madrid conference and later on in bilateral talks whose venue has apparently not been determined yet.

There were reports in the Madrid capital last night that Syria was still insisting on American and Soviet attendance of and involvement in bilateral talks, which the Israelis view as an obstacle to making progress in

negotiations. But the U.S. secretary of state was scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Farouk Sharrar last night to discuss the issue and to see whether Damascus would change its mind on its refusal to attend the multilateral talks on regional issues, in light of Saudi Arabia and Palestinian agreement to attend them in the third and final leg of peace negotiations.

According to informed sources here, agreement or discord on bilateral and multilateral talks would not surface until Friday, the last day of the conference, when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will be the last person to address the conference after all heads of delegation have replied to other formal addresses.

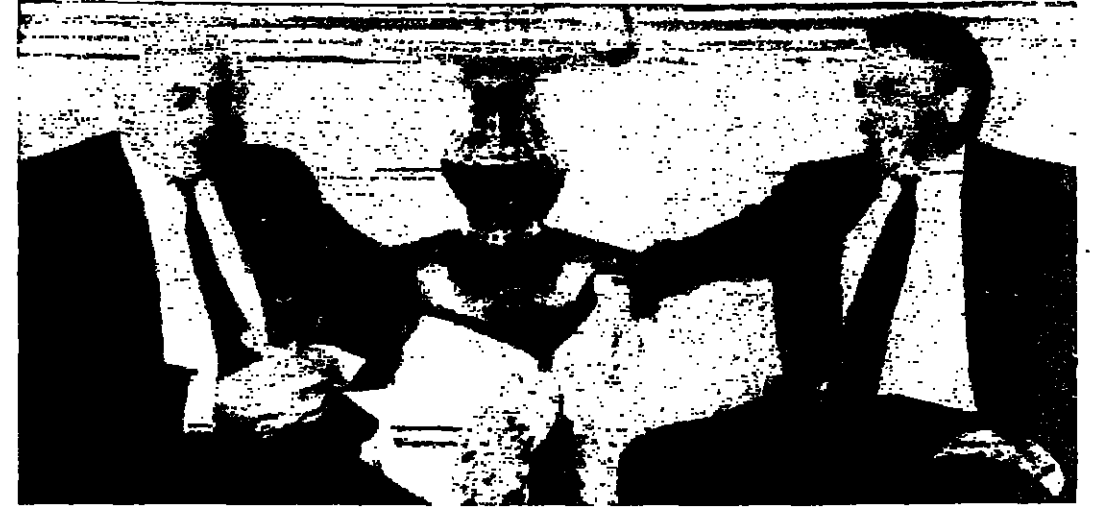
Much of what is going to happen at the conference and beyond will be largely determined by what presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev will have to say to the conferees in the opening ceremony today, according to

Arab sources. "It will also depend on Yitzhak Shamir and his speech," the sources say. "While we do not expect (President) Bush to promise direct pressure and imposing a settlement on Israel, we nevertheless hope that he and (President) Gorbachev will pledge to see this process to the end."

In a joint press conference held here after two hours of talks Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev said while they would exert all efforts to make the peace parley a success they would not impose any solution on any party.

Members of the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation say that short of imposing a settlement on the Israelis, the U.S. should press for and be able to secure a halt to the building of more or bigger Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"Such an achievement, more than any other step, can create the right atmosphere for the con-



Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, head of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, Tuesday meets with special U.N. representative to the Middle East Edmond Brunner (Petra photo)

ference and for the talks that should follow," a senior member of the delegation says. "If the Israelis will not commit them-

selves at the outset of the conference to withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories, then at least they can stop their settle-

ment activity and agree to confidence-building measures..." the Palestinian delegates maintain.

King believes settlement will be halted when peace talks begin

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said in an interview published Tuesday that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories will come to a halt when the Middle East peace conference starts.

"I believe there will be a halt to Israeli settlements with the beginning of the negotiating process," King Hussein told the London-based Al-Quds Al-Arabi.

"Any continuation in settlement construction will be among the reasons which might threaten the (peace) process from the beginning," the King said.

The issue of Israeli settlements is considered "very crucial" to Arabs, he said.

King Hussein expressed hope that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the

Madrid peace conference will carry out its duty and fulfill the Arabs' aspirations.

The joint delegation is backed in its endeavours by very wide sector of the Jordanian and Palestinian people and by the Arab World at large, the King said.

"After these long years of agony and lost opportunities, we have reached a high degree of awareness that makes it incumbent on us to shoulder our responsibilities as Palestinians and Jordanians," the King said.

The King said the question of settlements lies at the heart of the negotiations.

"I believe that the continuation of the settlement programme could jeopardise the peace process right from the beginning

since as it is unreasonable to have people discussing the future of the occupied territories while settlement programmes persist to swallow up those territories," the King said.

He said that the whole world supports the Arab side in its opposition to the settlements because settlements form a stumbling block in the path of peace.

"If we are searching for peace we should not place obstacles in its path," the King said.

King Hussein referred to the sufferings of the Palestinians under occupation, noting that these sufferings and the effects of the intifada were felt in Jordan, which "feels it is closer to the Palestinians than any other state and which has been bearing the negative consequences and



events befalling our kinsmen and our brothers in Palestine." "There are trends in the Arab World towards extremism and there are certain groups in Israel and in the Arab world who have their own selfish ambitions," the King said. "Therefore if the

(Continued on page 2)

Crown Prince: Regional issues directly linked

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday emphasised the importance of talks on regional issues among the various parties in the Middle East and said there cannot be any circumventing of the direct linkage among the regional issues.

The Crown Prince, in an interview with Mexican Television, also voiced appreciation for the U.S. initiative which led to the Middle East peace conference, which opens in Madrid Wednesday.

"This is not the time to raise slogans (or) to be emotional," the Crown Prince said. "It is time to express our appreciation for the sponsorship of this conference, in particular, the U.S. initiative of March of this year which we feel was a principal initiative in that it emphasised the importance of land for peace," the Crown Prince told interviewer Alka Ben Reza.

"It is also a time to remind the

(Continued on page 2)

Arafat calls on Palestinians to support delegates

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat urged Palestinians Tuesday to support a joint delegation with Jordan representing them at historic Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Arafat's address, played on a videotape at East Jerusalem's Al Hakawati Theatre, was shown to reporters in Tunis.

"This delegation represents all children, women and men in the interior and exterior of the occupied territories," Mr. Arafat said on the videotape.

"It is dedicated to challenging the Zionist enemy and all those who tried to frustrate the Palestinian people and their cause for decades," Mr. Arafat said.

The address, where Mr. Arafat affirmed the necessity to support our delegation at the Madrid conference, was an implicit call for Palestinians to spurn extremist factions rejecting the talks.

Mr. Arafat deplored a recent meeting in Tehran by the so-called "Conference for the support of the Islamic Revolution in Palestine" that set a day of "anger and protests" Oct. 30.

(Continued on page 2)

Bush, Gorbachev pledge all efforts, but say no imposed solutions

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev pledged Tuesday to use "all the remedies at our disposal" to nudge Arabs and Israelis towards peace, but said they would not try to dictate a settlement at the Middle East peace talks.

The U.S. and Soviet leaders, meeting in Madrid to launch the peace talks, urged Israel and the Arabs not to let slip the greatest chance of peace in decades.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev, co-sponsors of the talks opening Wednesday, appealed at a joint news conference to all sides to be constructive.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev side-stepped reporters' questions

dealing with substantive issues like land, the core of the Arab-Israeli struggle, for fear of undermining the hard bilateral bargaining that is to follow the set-speech opening Wednesday.

Mr. Gorbachev, who was also speaking for Mr. Bush, appealed to all sides to "act responsibly, with great understanding... that everybody be very constructive."

"We're not here to impose a settlement, we are here to be a catalyst... I don't want to give anybody reason to walk away or make additional conditions because of anything I might say here," he said.

Mr. Bush warned before leaving Washington that the talks; fruit of eight months of U.S.

shuttle diplomacy, would be long and hard. But he told reporters in Madrid: "This is historic because people are sitting down to talk to each other for the first time."

Without spelling out the U.S. interpretation, he stressed the talks would be based on U.N. Resolution 242, which called for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem which it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war in exchange for peace with Arab states.

Mr. Bush said he and Mr. Gorbachev had "yet another very constructive meeting" on the eve of the Mideast peace talks.

(Continued on page 5)

3 Israeli soldiers killed, 5 wounded in S. Lebanon

TYRE (Agencies) — Lebanese fighters, escalating attacks on the eve of the Arab-Israeli peace conference, killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded 11 in South Lebanon Tuesday, authorities said.

Israeli officials in Madrid and security sources in South Lebanon said three Israelis were killed and six wounded in a roadside bomb attack claimed by the Iranian-backed Hizbollah (Party of God).

Five others were wounded in a clash claimed by a Lebanon-based faction of Palestinian fundamentalists. Israeli sources said two guerrillas died and one was wounded in the clash.

Shortly after the guerrilla attacks, two Israeli helicopter gun

ships strafed fields of the Rashidieh Palestinian refugee camp in South Lebanon, killing one Palestinian and wounding three, Lebanese police said.

The Israeli army denied reports from police in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley that three guerrillas flying hang gliders to attack Israel were shot down in the south during the night.

The deadliest guerrilla attack was a roadside bomb detonated by Hizbollah in the anti-guerrilla buffer strip held by Israel and its allies across South Lebanon.

Lebanese security sources said three Israeli soldiers were killed and one was wounded. Israel did not report the bombing.

(Continued on page 2)

Palestinians carrying olive branch march for peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Thousands of Palestinians marched through the occupied Gaza Strip's largest town Tuesday to support the Madrid peace conference, shouting "We want peace" and handing olive branches to Israeli soldiers.

Some marchers jumped over army jeeps to shake hands with startled Israeli soldiers, introducing themselves as supporters to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Fatah faction, Palestinian reporters said.

A smaller counter-march was held by supporters of the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas (Zeal), which opposes the peace conference. No clashes with soldiers were reported in either de-

monstration. About 2,000 people took part in the pro-peace march in Gaza City, sponsored by Fatah, the Palestinian reporters said. About 700 marched to Jabaliya refugee camp, where the uprising against occupation began almost four years ago.

Israeli Radio reported the demonstration, saying army jeeps stood by as the youth who often throw stones at soldiers marched by chanting "We are with the peace conference."

Israeli soldiers confronted the marchers when they first started, but allowed the march to continue when they were assured it would be peaceful.

(Continued on page 2)

Questions remain over means to change bilateral talks into comprehensive solution

By Lamin K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ARAB LEADERS enter their first collective peace talks with Israel today united in their demand for a comprehensive solution based on swapping land for peace, but without a unified negotiating strategy.

Judging by official statements and interviews with Arab officials, there is no strategy on how to turn bilateral talks with Israel into comprehensive Arab-Israeli negotiations.

The absence of a unified Arab strategy, Arab analysts warn, will only further an Arab position already weakened by the serious imbalance resulting from the decline of Soviet influence and the Iraqi military defeat in the Gulf war.

Although analysts differ in their assessment of the Soviet role or the level of influence that Moscow can assert as a

co-sponsor of the Madrid peace talks, some argue that the Arabs have a better chance of prompting a more assertive Soviet position if they reached a clearly defined political strategy.

In a last-ditch effort to coordinate the Arab negotiating position, Arab foreign ministers met in Damascus last week and declared that no bilateral agreements with Israel will be signed until a comprehensive solution is reached.

But the Damascus meeting, which has restored a minimum level of Arab collective will which was completely shattered by the Gulf crisis, has failed to bring about an agreement on two important points that can affect the course of the negotiations:

—First, although there is an agreement that the issue of settlements should be on top of the agenda, the Arab parties did not chart out a strategy on

how to ensure a halt of the Israeli settlements. Furthermore, there is no consensus on how to react if Israel maintains its obstinate position and continues building the settlements as the conference continues.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials have publicly threatened that the

organisation will pull out the Palestinian delegation if Israel refused to stop the building of the settlements. In practice, however, the PLO might not be able to carry out its threat without strong support by the Arab countries.

Palestinian officials expect the organisation to come under tremendous international, and probably Arab pressure not to immediately withdraw so as

not to be blamed for blocking the talks.

Statements by PLO officials and Palestinian delegates to Madrid indicated hope that once the negotiations started the U.S. and the Soviet Union will pressure Israel to comply. The U.S. has not made any pledge concerning the settlements in its letter of assurances to the Palestinians and the Arab governments. But according to Palestinian and other Arab officials, U.S. administration officials have indicated to the Arab and Palestinian leaders that Washington will make sure that there will be a cessation of the settlements once the negotiations started.

In an interview with Jordan Television's Arabic channel on Sunday, Palestinian delegate Ghassan Al Khatib expressed hope that the conference will

(Continued on page 3)

NEWS ANALYSIS

Shamir: Everything on table

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak Shamir said that "everything could be brought on the table of negotiations" at the Arab-Israeli peace conference.

In an interview with NBC News Mr. Shamir was asked if he would consider giving up land for peace and bringing back settlers from Arab soil.

"Everything could be brought on the table of negotiations. It doesn't mean that we will give up this or that," he replied.

On the issue of trading land for peace he said: "We believe and are convinced it belongs to us since thousands of years. And maybe the Palestinians believe the same. Then let us negotiate how to settle it, how to find a way to avoid war."

Mr. Shamir, interviewed in Israel a day before his departure to the peace talks in Madrid, said the time was ripe for ending war

and suffering. "I think the Arab mass and especially the Palestinians have enough of it. They are fed up with it. And it's time to make a change, a revolutionary change, to make peace."

Asked if he would agree to freeze Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories, Mr. Shamir said: "We will not accept any preconditions. They can raise whatever they wish on the agenda of the talks, in the negotiations, but we will not accept any preconditions."

Israel is willing to negotiate the withdrawal of its soldiers from southern Lebanon, the Israeli official in charge of Lebanese policy said Monday in a discussion on the peace conference.

"I think (a withdrawal) is part of what will have to be the subject of negotiations now between us and the Lebanese," Uri Lubrani said.

Mr. Lubrani, at a meeting with Associated Press editors, said Israel has "preconditions for such a thing happening," among them the requirement that "the security needs of Israel are fully and irrevocably taken care of."

He declined to list any other conditions, saying that to do so would be premature. But he reiterated Israeli policy — that the Jewish state does not lay claim to even "an inch" of Lebanon.

Another Israeli spokesman said Tuesday his country was prepared to discuss any relevant issue at the Middle East talks but would not be drawn on whether it would consider giving land for peace.

In a British television interview, Yossi Olmert said Israel hoped for a positive outcome to the Madrid talks but expected

(Continued on page 2)

Two million people may claim damages from Iraq

GENEVA (R) — Up to two million people may claim damages from Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait, the head of the U.N. body that will process the claims said Tuesday.

Belgian Ambassador Philippe Berg, chairman of the governing council of the U.N. Compensation Fund, said it was possible that 1.5 million to two million people who left Kuwait or Iraq during the seven-month occupation of Kuwait might file claims.

If each asked only for the \$2,500 fixed amount being offered to anyone without proof of losses, that would mean small claims totalling \$3.75 billion to \$5 billion.

However, the council is weighing a proposal to raise the fixed amount to \$5,000, and people with documentation of losses will be able to file for unlimited amounts — leaving a potential for tens of billions of dollars of individual claims.

The U.N. Security Council, whose 15 members comprise the fund's governing council, has decided to siphon off a portion — up to a maximum of 30 per cent — of Iraqi oil revenues to pay for the losses.

It has authorised temporary sales worth \$1.6 billion but will only allow unlimited sales once it is satisfied Iraq's chemical, biological, nuclear and ballistic missile weapon programmes are destroyed or being destroyed.

Iraq is refusing to export any oil because it is unhappy with U.N. supervision and diversion of its revenues, so the compensation fund is dry.

"If there is no movement in oil, by deduction we have to face a situation where no money is going to come into the fund," Mr. Berg told a news conference.

Nonetheless, the governing council is taking steps to prepare the ground for getting its share of oil revenues when and if exports do begin.

In a week-long meeting that ended on Oct. 18, it adopted a complex mechanism for transferring Iraq's oil revenues once sanctions are lifted.

A confidential study prepared

U.N. seated on sidelines in Madrid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — After years of anti-Israel resolutions and rhetoric, the United Nations now finds itself relegated to observer status at the Middle East peace conference, a role that ranks the secretary-general.

Israel, which owes its existence to the 1947 U.N. vote to end the British mandate of Palestine and create two Jewish and Arab states, refused to accept full participation by the world body at the conference in Madrid.

The United Nations will be seated as an observer when the talks open Wednesday, represented by the secretary-general's personal representative to the Middle East, Swiss diplomat Edouard Brunner.

"I believe that this is not enough," Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said of the non-participant status of the world body.

"If that is all they are going to offer the United Nations, it is insufficient and unfair," he told a news conference last month.

"We should not forget that Israel is the creation of the United Nations Organisation and that the framework of any Middle East solution has to be the two Security Council resolutions, 242 (of 1967) and 338 (of 1973)."

Those resolutions call for peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, and lay the groundwork of a land-for-peace deal.

Israel says it has every reason to be wary of the United Nations, after some two decades of anti-Israeli resolutions, rhetoric and policies that have been issued by the world body.

The most ranking U.N. policy is the General Assembly's 1975 resolution declaring Zionism to be a form of racism, a measure targeted by the United States and Israel for repeal by the end of this assembly session.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar has denounced that resolution, but his views tend to be lost in the chorus of anti-Israeli statements that have emanated from the United Nations.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Algerian wives win right to vote

ALGIERS (R) — Wives won the right to vote in Algeria's first multi-party election when the constitutional council Monday threw out a law that would let husbands vote in their place. The council ruled that an article of the new electoral law allowing one married partner to vote for another did not conform with Algeria's constitution, which bans sexual or religious discrimination. The Algerian National Assembly, dominated by members of the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), had approved the article saying it wanted to avoid "sowing doubt and anarchy into the lives of (married) couples." Although wives could in theory vote for their husbands, critics of the article said tradition in male-dominated Algerian society would ensure that wives would be denied the right to elect the 430 members of the next National Assembly in the Dec. 26 poll. Opponents of the measure included feminist groups, the government and pro-democracy parties. President Chadli Benjedid referred the law to the council, which has seven members — two named by parliament, two by the supreme court and two plus the chairman by the president. The council meets in private to decide whether laws are constitutional. The general election was due last June 27 but postponed after riots by Islamic fundamentalists.

Kuwaiti officials: 18 more wells to go

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Oil officials said Tuesday that 18 out of 732 wells set ablaze or destroyed in the Gulf war remain to be brought under control. The officials said a ceremony marking the end of the firefighting effort was tentatively set for next Tuesday. "It appears that the plan is holding for Nov. 5," said the official. "But the final determination depends on the success in extinguishing and capping the wells before Tuesday." The official said that adverse weather conditions could cause delays. Of Kuwait's 940 producing wells, 732 were damaged. Original estimates called for capping the wells by March 1992. The faster rate was attributed to an increase in the number of firefighting companies, the availability of needed equipment and support, the completion of the water system and the growing experience of firefighters. Kuwait currently is producing about 290,000 barrels of oil a day from 120 intact wells. Output is expected to rise to about 400,000 barrels a day by the year's end and one million by July 1992.

Thousands of Sudanese fleeing famine, war

KAMPALA (R) — Thousands of Sudanese refugees are crossing into Uganda to escape famine and civil war in the south of their homeland, a United Nations official said Tuesday. "Most of them arrived in bad shape and a large number of them were teenagers," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official Ahmad Farah said in the Ugandan capital Kampala. Up to 2,000 refugees have been entering Uganda's northern region each month, bringing the total number of Sudanese refugees in the country to 70,000, a UNHCR report said. "Should the influx exceed this rate then we will have an emergency on our hands," Mr. Farah said. Millions of southern Sudanese have been uprooted from their homes in the eight-year civil war between government forces and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). An estimated 500,000 have died, mainly civilians falling victim to hunger and disease.

Pakistani diplomat summoned by Afghans

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Afghan Foreign Ministry summoned Pakistan's top diplomat in Kabul Monday to protest over what it said was a plot to blow up three of the country's hydroelectric dams. Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad, reported that the Afghan government had exact information about plans by the Pakistani army and intelligence services to destroy the dams. The protest follows charges by the president of the Afghan guerrilla government-in-exile in Pakistan that Pakistani military officials were planning to attack Khajaki Dam in western Afghanistan and Naghlu and Darunta in the east. The president, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, has been angered by being ousted from a guerrilla delegation he was due to lead to Moscow next week to discuss ways of ending Afghanistan's 13-year-old civil war.

Algerian general named presidential aide

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid appointed Major-General Hocine Benmaalem as director of his office, the official news agency APS reported Monday. Gen. Benmaalem replaces Maj-Gen. Larbi Belkheir who was named interior minister on Oct. 16 in a government reshuffle. Former head of the second military region in western Algeria, Gen. Benmaalem was until now director of the defence and security department at the presidency.

Hundreds of drug traffickers held in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Security agents in Iran arrested 871 alleged drug smugglers and seized more than 2,000 kilograms in two weeks, Tehran Radio reported Monday. The broadcast said 17 of the traffickers were from neighbouring Afghanistan. It said 2,130 kilograms of various drugs were confiscated in the two-week swoop, launched Oct. 8 in nine provinces. The operation also netted 18 guns and 22 vehicles used to transport narcotics, the radio said. Tens of thousands of so-called drug smugglers and addicts have been rounded up in Iran since December 1988. The government has hanged more than 2,500 people, including women and foreigners, on charges of drug-trafficking charges. Exile Iranian opposition groups allege that the drugs-charges are an excuse to get rid of government opponents.

Tehran-Cairo could restore ties

NICOSIA (AP) — An Iranian parliamentary commission on Monday asked the government to restore ties with Egypt, the only Arab country where Iran lacks an embassy. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the parliament's foreign relations commission sent a proposal to the Foreign Ministry, asking it to "study, with special priority," the improvement of ties with Cairo. Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, a so-called moderate, has been trying to temper his country's revolutionary fervor, and restore ties with all Arab countries and the West. Soon after the Gulf war, Tehran and Cairo reopened interest sections in each others' capitals closed in 1987.

King believes settlement will be halted

(Continued from page 1)

peace process fails, confusion and instability would prevail endangering not only the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict but rather the whole world community, King Hussein warned.

He said unless a just and sustainable peace based on justice is achieved, the consequences would be extremely bad for all.

The King noted that many changes had occurred in the Middle East, affecting all parties and said that "Israel had considered itself in the past as a 'vanguard force protecting certain interests vis-a-vis another camp. But this situation has changed as the other camp exists no more and hence Israel's status in the eyes of others has drastically changed."

King Hussein said that such factors have their own effect on the future of the whole region and on the nature of a solution to the conflict.

King Hussein said that cohesion among Jordanians "is something that one can only feel proud of."

"National unity in Jordan is essential and is considered as an embodiment of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt," he added.

King Hussein noted that Arab

Jerusalem was occupied in the 1967 war and Israel considers the city as part of what it calls "greater Jerusalem." But this accounts for one fifth of the whole occupied West Bank. This question, along with the Israeli settlements, will be discussed at the peace conference," the King said.

He said that the whole world supports the Arab rights and does not recognise Israel's claim to Arab Jerusalem and Israel's practices to change the character of the Holy City, which is holy for all Arabs and Muslims, the world community at large.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 considers Jerusalem as occupied territory, and part of the occupied West Bank," King Hussein said.

The city of Jerusalem should remain a symbol of peace and one for all the monotheistic faiths.

King Hussein said this city was occupied by Israel in the 1967 war and the Israelis claim that the Jews were forbidden by the Arabs to reach the Wailing Wall. But, he explained, this question was agreed in the armistice agreement between the Arabs and Israel. The King also said the Israelis had been preventing Christians from reaching

Nazareth and other holy places under occupation.

The King has repeatedly said that settlement construction were illegal and warned that they would seriously hinder the Middle East peace drive.

President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have also criticised the settlements, saying they were an obstacle to peace.

On Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told reporters before his departure for peace talks in Madrid that the Jewish state would not halt building in the occupied territories.

Palestinian activists Hanan Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini, the main negotiators of peace terms with Mr. Baker, have been rallying for U.S. assurances that Israel would freeze construction in the territories at the start of the talks in Madrid Wednesday.

But officials said Palestinians have not received any American guarantee on the issue. They said Palestinians expect the United States to pressure Israel at the peace conference to halt settlements.

There are fears the conference will be disrupted if the settlements issue is not raised at the beginning.

Crown Prince stresses linkage of issues

(Continued from page 1)

world that those who are participating in this conference are clearly there to promote moderation and to promote a search for common ground based on cumulative interest," he said.

At the same time, the Crown Prince warned, "if this exercise is to be aborted, then clearly we will not be engaged in a process which we all seek, but we will have given the opportunity to those who, expecting and anticipating a failure of this political exercise, to say 'their year is, we told you so. The positions are too intransigent, nothing will change and it will not be a case of land for peace or peace for peace but peace in place as we know it is no

peace at all."

In reply to a question on regional talks, the Crown Prince said:

"Let me first take in terms of direct linkage the question of the multilateral talks, which we feel very strongly are extremely important in that they represent in a sense a Helsinki process for the Middle East. In terms of energy, water, and the consumption of water, there is direct linkage. In terms of debt and military expenditure, there is direct linkage. This is transactional thinking. It goes across borders and consequently when one looks at the case of Israel, in the context, for example, of water, Israel is a low riparian of water, we are a middle

riparian and Syria is an upper riparian, and, if you will, Turkey is an upper riparian to Syria. So there is direct linkage on the most explosive issue potentially, which is drinking water."

"But of course if you are asking me about the direct political talks: Will they lead to cumulative achievements? Clearly, as has been said, some delegations will make progress than others, but what we are looking for is not a peace in aggregate or peace in cumulative achievements. What we, and I say we as Arabs, are looking for, is a comprehensive and just peace and think that every indication today is that the cause of the Palestinian people will be honoured and promoted by active Arab interaction."

British newspaper editor in Israeli arms row sacked

LONDON (Agencies) — The Daily Mirror newspaper has sacked foreign editor Nicholas Davies, who is at the centre of allegations that he spied for Israel.

Mirror group newspapers said in a statement Nicholas Davies was dismissed by editor Richard Stott after Mr. Davies' "absolute denials" about a visit to Ohio in the United States proved to be untrue.

It said it had no doubt allegations he spied for Israel were "wholly untrue."

"Mr. Davies was aware of the defence the paper was mounting on his behalf. Regrettably, his absolute denials on the Ohio questions, on which the paper was entitled to rely, were not true," the statement said.

"Mr. Stott had, therefore, no alternative but to dismiss him in accordance with the company's rules," it added.

Mr. Davies has the right to appeal to Mirror group publisher Robert Maxwell, who has sued U.S. author Seymour Hersh for libel over the allegations in his book "The Samson Option, Israel, America and the Bomb."

Mr. Davies has denied the allegations.

He had also denied visiting Ohio in 1985 although he later said he had been there to visit the Amish sect for a story.

Last Friday another British newspaper, the Daily Mail, published a photograph it said apparently showed Mr. Davies at an arms-dealer's Ohio home.

On Friday the Daily Mirror quoted Mr. Davies as saying he did meet Charles Benjamin Kaufman, a former arms dealer, while he was visiting Amish areas in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He was quoted as saying they went for a walk and there was no mention of arms trading.

British politicians sought an inquiry into these and other claims in the book of alleged links between the Daily Mirror and Israeli Mossad intelligence.

The Conservative Party's Rupert Allason and the opposition Labour Party's George Galloway raised the allegations in parliament.

Taken from the book, they allege Mr. Davies was involved in Israeli arms deals with Iran and helped Mossad kidnappers find Israeli nuclear scientist Mordechai Vanunu, jailed for treason in 1988.

Mr. Hersh, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, was served with libel writs on Thursday while in London defending the allegations made in his book. The writs were served on behalf of Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Davies and Mirror group newspapers.

Of the allegations concerning Mr. Vanunu and Mossad, the statement said: "We have no doubt they are wholly untrue, and the Daily Mirror does not retract or retreat from a single word of what it said in Mr. Davies' defence on these questions..."

Shamir

(Continued from page 1)

them to be "very long and protracted and complicated negotiations that will go up and down, up and down."

Asked by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) if Israel was prepared to cede territory for the sake of peace, he said: "Just let's talk about what can be done in order to achieve peace... the idea is to discuss everything which separates one side from another."

In Madrid Mr. Shamir said the killing of Israeli soldiers and settlers would not derail the peace talks.

"Some might have expected that in the face of this terror, Israel would not attend the conference, but despite this violence, our press for peace is unrelenting," Mr. Shamir told reporters after arriving in Madrid.

As Mr. Shamir was flying to the talks news broke that guerrillas had killed at least three Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon.

On Monday night unknown assailants ambushed a bus carrying Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank killing two and wounding five.

"We all who desire true peace should unite in condemning without any reservation these unspeakable acts," Mr. Shamir, 76, said.

"We hope that here in Madrid will begin a process to realise our greatest aspirations. We do not wish to wait any longer for peace and truly plead as if our counterparts have come here in the same spirit our years of waiting will come to an end," said Mr. Shamir.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Le Monde est a Vous
19:00	News in French
19:15	News in Hebrew
19:30	News in Arabic
20:30	Kate and Alice
21:10	Cosmos
22:00	News in English
22:30	Equal Justice
PRAYER TIMES	
06:28	Fajr
05:46	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19	Dhuhr
16:25	'Asr
16:53	Maghrib
18:11	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlik, Tel. 810740	
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 622785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assuan International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be cloudy and winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	12 / 27
Aqaba	17 / 30
Deserts	11 / 27
Jordan Valley	18 / 31
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad Abbedi	778999
Dr. Adel Dahdoub	612177
Dr. Fakhri Bilal	625778
Dr. Hussein Haddad	731267
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asana pharmacy	637025
Nabulsi pharmacy	623672
Al Salim pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
DREDA:	
Dr. Abdul Majid Sababeh	(-)
Dr. Shamsi pharmacy	(275825)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein	(-)
Khalil pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
---------------------	--------

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	603041
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63032
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information	(direct assistance)
Overseas Calls	010250
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	681010
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53208
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

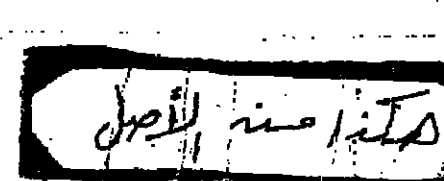
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Damascus (RJ)
06:30	Jeddah (RJ)
06:30	Dhahran (RJ)
06:30	Lamaca (RJ)
06:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:30	Madrid (RJ)
06:30	Island (RJ)
06:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
06:30	Sanaa (RJ)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Damascus (RJ)
06:30	Jeddah (RJ)
06:30	Dhahran (RJ)
06:30	Lamaca (RJ)
06:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:30	Madrid (RJ)
06:30	Island (RJ)
06:30	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
06:30	Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00	Cairo (MS)
06:30	Sanaa (TY)
06:30	Cairo (MS)
06:30	Banghazi (LY)
06:30	Karachi (PK)
06:30	London, Brussels (RJ)
06:30	Aqaba (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:00	Cairo (MS)
06:30	Sanaa (TY)
06:30	Cairo (MS)
06:30	Banghazi (LY)
06:30	Karachi (PK)
06:30	London, Brussels (RJ)
06:30	Aqaba (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apples	500 / 600
Bananas	500 / 600
Bananas (Mukammal)	550 / 600
Beans	530 / 550
Cabbage	170 / 180
Cauliflower	240 / 250
Cucumbers (large)	150 / 160
Cucumbers (small)	150 / 160
Eggplant	230 / 240
Garlic	600 / 700
Grapes	900 / 1000
Guava	500 / 600
Lemon	400 / 500
Marrow (large)	200 / 250
Marrow (small)	200 / 250
Onion	850 / 950
Onion (dry)	180 / 220
Pepper (hot)	250 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	400 / 500
Potato	300 / 350
Sage	200 / 250
Spinach	220 / 250
Sweet melon	200 / 250
Tomatoes	300 / 350
Watermelon	140 / 160





Representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO), address meeting reviewing the activities of the local office of WHO's Centre for Environmental Health Activities

Health official commends CEHA's efforts in promoting public welfare

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) gathered here Tuesday for a three-day meeting designed to assess the activities and achievements of WHO's regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), which is based in Amman, and the centre's plan of action for 1992 and 1993.

Acting for Health Minister Mamdouh Abbadi, Ministry of Health Secretary General Dr. Adnan Abbas opened the meetings with a speech underlining the importance of CEHA's operations in the Arab region.

Dr. Hassan Baroudi WHO regional representative, com-

mended the role of the Health Ministry in promoting health levels and in backing projects carried out to promote sanitation and public health in the Kingdom. Dr. Baroudi called for increased cooperation between CEHA and the Health Ministry to achieve these common goals.

Dr. Abbas paid tribute to WHO and CEHA for helping Jordan promote its expertise in health-related matters and activities designed to protect public health.

WHO officials said that the seminar was designed to enable health workers and experts to exchange views about environmental health within the eastern Mediterranean region and to dis-

uss problems related to water and sanitation.

CEHA officials said that representatives of Pakistan, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Jordan are represented at the meeting, which is considered as the third meeting of a regional technical advisory committee to be held in Amman.

They said the committee will evaluate CEHA's achievements and review a proposed plan for 1992 and 1993. The committee will also issue recommendations for CEHA's future directions which can be used as guidelines for long-term goals, technical emphasis and improvement of operational efficiency.

Parliamentarian calls for improvements in schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament member Nayef Al Hadid has urged the Ministry of Education to set up a committee to study the condition of government schools in the southern Amman regions.

In a message to Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat, Mr. Hadid said that the schools in some parts of southern Amman lack sanitary facilities and other essential services as well as school yards for children. He called on the Ministry of Education to allocate funds to help solve the problems in southern Amman.

The House member also commented on a memorandum he had received from the minister of education about the school buildings in a number of towns and villages in areas south of Amman by saying that the buildings planned for the region would not serve the purpose as they lack proper facilities and do not cater to the needs of the students.

Ashrawi: Palestinians confident heading into negotiations

AMMAN (Petra) — Spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, Hanan Ashrawi Monday said that the majority of Palestinians support Palestinian participation in the peace conference.

In an interview with the weekly television programme "Encounter," Dr. Ashrawi said it is the first time that the Palestinians take the initiative and that the Palestinian identity is recognised internationally.

"We are going to the conference with open hearts and minds and will do our best to contribute to making the conference a success," she said.

She noted that the Palestinian uprising was the natural outcome of a long and cumulative process of struggle and described it as a source of power and self-confidence.

She pointed out that the international atmosphere is



Hanan Ashrawi

now very positive for the Palestinians because of the global focus on human rights and the determination to apply international legitimacy as embodied in U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The Palestinians have every

right to demand their rights and that international legitimacy be applied to their cause, she said. She added that the American administration is serious in establishing peace in the region and likes to see peace and stability prevail in this region.

Dr. Ashrawi said that Israel is no longer the strategic ally of the United States, adding that it has become a strategic burden on America and is exhausting the American resources. She pointed out that Israel can no longer view itself as an extension to the West and should, therefore, strive to fit in the region through achieving an understanding with the countries of the area.

The Palestinian side is confident that despite entering into negotiations concerning a transitional period or autonomy, this will not be the end result, she said.

The Palestinian side has re-

ceived guarantees that these are only transitional phases conducive to a final solution.

"The absence of peace has cost us dearly and we are willing to pay the same price for establishing peace," she said.

On the talks with the Jordanian government, Dr. Ashrawi said, "We have achieved tremendous achievements in our talks with the Jordanian government in terms of forming the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and ensuring political coordination."

She noted that the Palestinian delegation also coordinated with the Egyptian side, which voiced preparedness to support the Palestinian delegation.

She stressed the importance of inter-Arab coordination and noted in particular the Damascus last week of the foreign ministers of Arab countries bordering Israel.

Papers call for greater freedom for Arab women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Participants in a five-day seminar on population, education and the role of Arab women Tuesday reviewed a working paper from Sudan dealing with the educational systems of that country, literacy rates among Sudanese women, women in employment and legislation on women's participation in public life.

The paper, submitted by Dr. Amneh Al Badri, recommended that intensified public awareness and guidance programmes be engineered and that the conditions of rural women be improved.

The paper urged universities to teach domestic science subjects and to allocate special budgets to finance women training programmes.

A working paper from Palestine reviewed Palestinian women's contributions to the educational and economic sectors in Palestine. The paper, submitted by Khadijah Abu Ali, recommended that Geneva conventions concerning women be implemented in the occupied Arab territories. The researcher also

called on non-governmental organisations to extend help to Palestinian women and to open the way for them to participate in regional and international seminars concerned with achieving parity in political rights between men and women.

A paper from Algeria outlined the educational standards of the north African country, noting that the levels of literacy among rural women were extremely high.

A working paper from Tunisia reviewed education standards among Tunisian women and programmes to eradicate illiteracy.

Papers from the United Arab Emirates and Egypt were reviewed earlier outlining women's participation in the national economic, cultural and social activities.

A total of 14 countries are represented at the meeting, which was organised by the regional office of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

Official: International community failing to answer Jordan's call for aid

By Serene Halasa

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's urgent appeal for international aid to help resettle around 300,000 returnees from Kuwait and other Gulf states has gone unanswered, according to an official at the Interior Ministry.

Last week, Salameh Hammad, the chairman of the government-appointed Returnees Welfare Committee, issued an urgent appeal on behalf of the committee to international and humanitarian organisations as well as the United Nations and countries friendly to Jordan in order to help the Kingdom "confront this serious humanitarian issue of unprecedented proportions."

Between Aug. 6 and Oct. 21, around 35,860 expatriates have returned from Kuwait, said Mr. Hammad, who is also the secretary general of the Ministry of Interior. He added that he did not expect the number of expatriates to increase by the end of this year, but stressed that the problem lies with helping those already



Salameh Hammad

in the Kingdom and those who came in with a small amount of money that has already been spent.

"The problem of the expatriates is a continuous one. Many local charities are helping us by giving in kind donations," Mr. Hammad said. "But the problem with this is many of these expatriates refuse to ask the charities for this kind of help because their dignity will not allow them to."

The committee established to relieve the plight of the

returnees has offered the needy whatever possible services it has received. Yet, Mr. Hammad said that the volume of aid offered through the committee for the benefit of the returnees did not reach the level of real requirements of food and medicine that the majority needed on a daily basis.

According to Mr. Hammad, the committee operates on a two level emergency plan. The first level emergency plan aims at extending immediate help to the expatriates while the second establishes coordination between the various charity organisations in different governorates and the heads of social development programmes in those governorates.

Mr. Hammad also said that the problem of incorporating and reintegrating the expatriates into society can be addressed through comprehensive programmes designed to do that. But, he added, the Kingdom does not have the financial means to design such programmes and that is why it has repeatedly issued appeals for international aid.

Questions remain over means to change talks

(Continued from page 1)

focus international attention on Israel's defiant and illegal position and build up pressure on Tel Aviv to abide by international law.

But assuming that international pressure will take time to accumulate and be transformed into action, it remains under how the Arabs will move on to the more complicated issue of Israeli withdrawal without ensuring a freeze on settlements.

The U.S. has made it clear that it will not allow any obstacle on front or issue to hinder the progress of the talks — making it difficult for the Arab leaders to pursue their declared objective of striking a linkage between all phases, and all issues at all fronts of negotiations.

Secondly, the Arab parties going into the negotiations differ on the timing of the third phase of the talks — multilateral discussions on regional security and economic arrangements, which are scheduled to take place two weeks after the opening of the conference.

Damascus has called on the Arabs to boycott the multilateral regional talks if Israel refused to withdraw from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. Jordan had already promised the U.S. to attend prior to the Syrian request.

Egypt which will only attend the conference as an observer but is expected to play a very influential role, is pressing all the Arab parties to attend the regional talks in accordance with the agenda, according to Arab officials.

The PLO had initially firmly backed the Syrian call but recent statements by members of the Palestinian delegation indicated a possible shift of position.

The apparent shift was contained in statements made by Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, spokesperson of the Palestinian delegation to Madrid; she said last Friday that there should not be a move towards the multilateral talks before "complete progress" was made on the Palestinian issue.

Later Sunday, upon her return from a visit to Egypt, Dr. Ashrawi implied that the Palestinians might accept that the agenda proceeds as scheduled provided the Arabs agree among each that no agreement be signed until all issues are settled.

"It is not a matter of timing but of substance," she told reporters in Amman. "There is a difference between attending and signing."

PLO officials said that Cairo

has been pressuring the PLO and the Palestinian delegation not to heed the Syrian call.

It will be further difficult for the PLO to heed the Syrian call, especially after the Gulf states declared that they were attending the regional talks.

Arab officials expect the Saudis to play a key role in an attempt to dissuade Syria from boycotting the regional talks. But the officials say that President Hafiz Al Assad was very disconcerted that the American assurances to Syria did not involve a clear reference to the need for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. They said that Mr. Assad was also upset at the reported American letter of assurances to Israel, which according to Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, recognises the "strategic significance" of the Golan Heights to Israel and which involves American readiness to guarantee the borders between Israel and Syria.

The PLO is expected to be torn between the Syrian call — which is more consistent with the Palestinian demands — and a concern not to isolate itself during the negotiations, particularly that it has just been successful in breaking its isolation that it has suffered since the Gulf crisis.

Furthermore, as its official admits, the PLO is in dire need for the resumption of financial aid from the Gulf states — a concern that applies at various levels to all of the Arab parties involved in the talks, giving Saudi Arabia a very influential say in the talks.

Therefore what the PLO and Jordan are expected to seek in a commitment by all the Arab parties that no final agreement be signed before reaching a comprehensive resolution to all the disputes, especially the Palestinian problem.

The Damascus declaration contains such an agreement, but it is not binding.

To ensure that Israel will not try to get each Arab government to sign separately, the Arab foreign ministers, who are leading their countries' delegations have agreed to maintain continuous coordination throughout the talks.

But, according to Arab politicians and analysts, the efficiency of this planned negotiations will hinge on the course of inter-Arab relations. Although the Damascus meeting has succeeded in melting the ice between many of the Arab parties involved, mistrust, partly as a direct result of the Gulf war, prevails, the analysis points out.

Fund allocates JD 1.2 million to poor

AMMAN (Petra) — Abdullah Abu Ayyash, director of the Development and Employment Fund (DEF), said the fund had spent JD 1.2 million during the last six months to finance projects in the agricultural, service and handicraft fields.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abu Ayyash said the fund usually finances projects set up by individuals and societies. In doing so, the fund follows two methods — a direct one and indirect one.

Under the direct method, the fund itself undertakes studies aimed at evaluating the feasibility of the projects proposed for implementation. Based on the findings of the evaluative studies, the fund provides the necessary funds.

The second method is different since it is carried out through intermediary institutions, who are well-known for their vast experience and outreach.

Under this method, the fund signs agreements with such institutions.

He pointed out that the fund had concluded agreements with the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), the Industrial Development Bank and the Vocational Training Corporation.

Under the agreement with the ACC, funds are made available to individuals included in the target group, that is the beneficiary group. Funds of financing projects in the agricultural, services and handicrafts sectors are channelled through the Industrial Development Bank in coordination with the Vocational Training Corporation.

Dr. Abu Ayyash said the fund gives up to JD 6,000 in loans to individuals to finance income-generating projects payable over a period of seven years with a two-year grace period.

He noted that the fund reaches the poor communities through the General Union of Voluntary Societies, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund, and the Save the Children Fund.

In this regard, Dr. Abu Ayyash said the fund gave loans worth JD 600,000 to help carry out income-generating projects in poor communities.

Medical society tackles handicapped disabilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Swedish Medical Society opened a three-day conference in Amman Tuesday under the title "Community-Based Rehabilitation," focusing attention on the handicapped and means of dealing with disabilities.

Addressing the opening session, Health Minister Mamdouh Abbadi said that international studies have revealed that at least seven per cent of Third World populations are handicapped persons.

The Health Ministry is currently introducing measures aimed at improving primary health care and rehabilitation services through a national centre providing physiotherapy at Al Bashir Hospital, the minister said.

In the provinces, the Health Ministry has set up special physiotherapy units at hospitals and health centres and provided sufficient numbers of qualified cadres to carry out the work, the minister added.

Furthermore, he said, the ministry is involved in the implementation of a rehabilitation project in conjunction with the World Health Organisation (WHO). The project, initiated in 1984, aims at extending rehabilitation services to local communities. Dr. Abbadi said. He added that the Health Ministry was maintaining full cooperation with voluntary and charitable societies in Jordan offering care to handicapped people.

The minister appealed to all non-governmental organisations and charitable and voluntary groups to contribute towards the rehabilitation of handicapped children and help the ministry carry out a national survey to determine the number of handicapped people in Jordan.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, who is the Jordanian-Swedish Medical Society's president, opened the sessions by noting that the current meeting was the third of its kind by the society after the 1988 meeting in Amman and the 1989 seminar in Sweden. He said that the society aims at providing the best care to handicapped children, drawing on the experience of its members in Jordan and Sweden.

Among the other speakers at the opening session was Minister of Social Development Awni Al Bashir who outlined his ministry's contributions towards rehabilitation services in the Kingdom. The ministry has set up special education centres and schools and provided qualified staff to carry out the required services, he said.

Representatives of the Swedish Crown Prince Fund and the King and Queen of Sweden delivered addresses voicing hope that the meetings would yield fruitful results and contribute to the improvement of the handicapped people's condition.

According to Dr. Farouk Taher Al Khazbi, the society's secretary, the participants will discuss a number of working papers prepared by a group of Swedish and Jordanian physicians. The papers, he said, tackle types of disabilities in Jordan in general and Jordanian experiments in caring for handicapped people.

Nearly 50 per cent of the studies and research papers were prepared by the Jordanian side, according to the organisers.

INVITATION FOR OFFICE RENTAL

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) requires the rental of offices near its UTG Building in Al-Shmamsi, in accordance with the following specifications:

1. Total area of approximately 2500 square meters.
2. Fully furnished for office use.
3. Heating and airconditioning facilities.
4. Internal and external telephone lines.
5. Parking lot for up to 70 cars.

Please contact ESCWA General Services Section at tel: 694351, ext. 107 between 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. from Sunday through Thursday.

يسرنا أن نعرض عليكم
رأبى سيلينا ٢١٥ الرائع

في حاوية ممتلئة بعرض ٢٠ قدما وحمولة
١٢٠٠ قطعة للحاوية الواحدة

- * أسعار منافسة
- * التشغيل - بطارية/كهربية
- * المصدرون/ القطاع التجاري فقط
- * إتصلوا بـ

TECHNICAL & OPTICAL
EQUIPMENT (LONDON) LIMITED
FAX : 081 809 0556 TELEX: 261874

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

The olive branch

JORDAN HAS cause to be both enthusiastic and apprehensive at the start of the Madrid conference. Embroiled in the middle of the conflict, Jordan has since the 1967 war sought to achieve peace in the region. The Jordanian leadership has lobbied Arabs, Palestinians and super and regional powers to press for the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. His Majesty King Hussein travelled to the four corners of the globe rallying leaders and nations to press for the convening of an international peace conference. It is thus that Jordan looks at Madrid with hope. But the country is also apprehensive because during the past two decades all its efforts and the efforts of many peace-loving nations and leaders were aborted by the intransigence of the Israeli leaders. This country has suffered over the years as a result of the conflict. Since 1948, Jordan had to shoulder the burden of having to receive most of the Palestinian refugees and to face the Arab Nation's common enemy, Israel. At the same time, the country had to face tremendous pressures — both internal and external, from foe as well as from friend and brother.

As the conference opens in Madrid today, many Jordanians pray for its success and dread its failure. For us in Jordan and for the world at large this will be a historical turning point. If the Madrid conference succeeded, the region will head for tranquillity, prosperity and peace. If, God forbid, it failed, the area would slump into chaos that will ultimately lead to catastrophe and misery.

As King Hussein has repeated many times this could be the last opportunity for peace. Much of the credit for the convening of the conference goes to the Americans: President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in particular. Both men, especially Secretary Baker, have put much of their time and effort to clear all the hurdles to Madrid. And much still depends on the Americans. Despite President Bush's protestations that it is up to the antagonists to negotiate peace, the gulf between the Arabs on one side and the Israelis on the other is still very wide. The Arabs, after years of concessions, demand the return of the occupied territories and the realisation of Palestinian political rights. The Israelis say they will not do this. To move both sides towards a compromise would require even more arduous efforts by the Americans, the Soviets and the Europeans.

It goes without saying that if this process failed, the Middle East would certainly head towards more violence and bloodshed. The region in fact cannot afford a failure. This has been the contention of the Jordanian leadership. The Arabs, and the Israelis as well, stand to gain a great deal from the achievement of peace. For forty years the two parties fought and both lost in different ways in a bitter dispute that unless resolved peacefully will lead to catastrophe. Both Arabs and Israelis dream of a region that, like Europe, would be an oasis of peace, tranquillity and prosperity. This can only be attained through the demolition of all the barriers of hostility, fear and prejudice. For many years the Palestinians have been holding an olive branch on one hand and a gun on the other. On Monday Jordanian and Palestinian negotiators arrived in Madrid, holding olive branches. They chose to do so as a symbolic gesture that they intend to make peace. It is now up to the Israeli side to show the same inclination. The Middle East is at a crossroads. The Arabs have chosen the path to peace. Will the Israelis do likewise?

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The Arabs are in Madrid for the sake of achieving the aspirations of the present and future generations to a lasting and honourable peace in the Middle East, said Al Rai' Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper said that peace is the dream of all people in the region and, should the negotiators succeed in their endeavour, it would be a victory for persons everywhere and a triumph for justice over evil. There can be no room for security or stability in this region the paper said, without a genuine peace based on justice and an end to terrorism and occupation. There must be a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, which has caused so much suffering for so many people in the region, and Arab rights in Palestine have to be re-established and the homeland of the oppressed Palestinians should be restored to its lawful owners if a real peace is to be achieved, stressed the daily. The paper said that if peace is established, there will be gains for all parties and there will be hope for the future generations of this region. But, it added, should failure be the end of the negotiations, no one can predict the magnitude of the tragedies that await the people in the near or distant future. What the Arab masses hope to see, stressed the paper, is the implementation of international legitimacy because they look with hope towards the so-called new world order that has been advocated by the United States and is being peddled under the umbrella of the United Nations.

It seems that the unprecedented serious American position with regard to the achievement of peace in the Middle East has embarrassed Israel, which finds itself besieged on all fronts, said Sawt Al Shaab daily Tuesday. The Israeli leadership now feels that their expansionist designs are jeopardised by the American administration's stand, which is showing not only seriousness this time, but also some kind of neutrality with regard to the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, the paper said. Israel's apprehensions, the paper said, stem from the fact that it has never before seen such an attitude on the part of the United States. Therefore, the paper said, one should not be surprised to hear Israeli officials launching an attack on U.S. policies which seem to be restricting Israel's ambitions and containing its lust for expansion at the expense of Arab countries. The paper said there was no need for such apprehension on the part of Israel, which realised all along that the idea of the peace conference had always been to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Spain brings Arabs, Jews together 500 years after ejecting them

By Francesca Gee
Reuter

MADRID — Five centuries ago, a triumphant Roman Catholic Spain ruthlessly expelled Muslims and Jews who lived peacefully side by side under a great Moorish culture.

As host to historic Middle East peace talks opening on Wednesday, Spain now hopes to provide the setting for reconciling the two peoples it once drove out.

The very name of the Spanish capital where Israeli and Arab delegates will try to end a bloody 43-year conflict comes from the Arabic Madinat, as its Moorish rulers once called it. Spain has long had privileged links with the Arab World. Its relations with Israel, by

contrast, have improved only recently. A deep-rooted mistrust between General Francisco Franco and the Jewish state prevented the two countries edging closer until after the dictator's death in 1975.

Diplomatic relations were established only five years ago by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who, in a delicate balancing act, granted official status to a PLO office soon afterwards.

Spanish involvement in the search for Middle East peace goes back many years, however.

As early as 1935, American Jewish leaders asked Gen. Franco if he would act as mediator between Israel and its Arab foes. Gen. Franco said he would if the Arabs asked him. The scheme went nowhere.

In 1980, King Juan Carlos offered to use his ties with moderate Arab leaders to promote Middle East peace in exchange for a U.S. promise to help Spain gain early entry to NATO. Under Mr. Gonzalez, Spain has called repeatedly for peace talks.

Jewish culture flourished under Muslim rule in medieval Spain, producing giants of literature and philosophy such as Maimonides and Solomon Ibn Gabirol. Toledo, where Christians, Muslims and Jews lived together in peace, was once called the Jerusalem of the West for its mosques, churches and synagogues.

During that golden age, Jews in Spain were physicians, scholars and translators. They also played a prominent role in banking and commerce, and some historians attribute Spain's economic decline from the 16th century to the expulsion of Jews.

The "Catholic monarchs" Ferdinand and Isabella told them to convert to Christianity or leave in 1492, when the last Arabs were driven from their Alhambra fortress in southern Spain.

An estimated two-thirds of Spain's 400,000 Jews fled, mostly to Turkey and North Africa, to form the Sephardic community. Many still speak Ladino, a medieval Spanish, and some families have kept to this day the keys of their homes in Spain — Sephardic in Hebrew — in the hope of coming back.

The expulsion decree was repealed only in 1968, although Jews started trickling back to Spain during World War II to form a 12,000-strong community. A 1982 law granted Spanish nationality to descendants of the Jews expelled in 1492. A few thousands, mostly from North Africa, have taken the opportunity to return to Spain.

Arabs have also come back to the land they once called Al Andalus and which was the main Arab outpost in Europe. Using oil money, they have been buying real estate all over Spain.

A mosque opened 10 years ago by Saudi King Fahd, the first to be built in Spain in five centuries, symbolised a revival of Arab influence on the Costa Del Sol, whose plush Marbella resort has become a favourite playground for wealthy Gulf Arabs.

King Fahd and his brothers have built marble palaces in Marbella facing Africa, where the Moorish conquerors came from. The region of Andalusia still has such relics of Islamic civilisation as the Alhambra, a fine example of old Moorish architecture, or the Great Mosque in Cordoba, now a cathedral. Arab influence can also be found in Flamenco singing and the horseshoe arch and enclosed patios of Andalusian buildings. But modern Spain has not had the influx of migrant workers from Islamic countries experienced by some of its West European neighbours. Spain's Muslim population is estimated at 200,000, mostly in its North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, compared with three million in France.

Israelis and Arabs meet in Madrid with differing agendas

MADRID (R) — Israel and its Arab foes meet across the Middle East peace conference table with widely differing agendas. Following is a list of the objectives of the delegations.

Israelis:

— The last to agree to attend the peace talks, Israel.

— Wants the peace conference to be a brief ceremonial opening leading to the one-on-one talks it has always wanted with the Arabs.

— Hopes ultimately to sign peace treaties with Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, its immediate neighbours, recognising its right to exist.

— Opposes the creation of a Palestinian state or the return of Palestinian refugees.

— Opposes U.S. and U.N. demands Israel ultimately cede land it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war.

— Says it wants to grant Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip interim self-rule as envisaged in the 1978 Camp David peace accords Israel signed with Egypt but adds that the status of Arab East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel after the war, is not negotiable.

— Suggests Israelis and Arabs will have to negotiate an unspecified permanent solution on the future of the occupied lands.

— Hopes to conclude regional agreements in planned multilateral talks with Arab states on such issues as arms control and water.

Palestinians:

Nearly four years into their uprising of stones and strikes, Palestinians:

— Want an independent state including the West Bank and Gaza Strip with its capital Arab East Jerusalem.

— Hope the peace conference will bring about an end to Israel's 24-year-old occupation of their land.

— Want Israel to halt Jewish settlement in occupied territories while peace talks go on.

— Will accept self-rule for a period of up to five years provided they control land and water resources legislation during this interim period.

— May accept a confederation with Jordan but prefer a decision be delayed until after a Palestinian state is established.

— Are likely to raise the issue of the right to return for some 2.5 million Palestinians who have sought refuge in Arab countries since the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

— Want Israeli goodwill gestures that would include the release of nearly 10,000 Palestinian prisoners, removing soldiers from the streets, ending arbitrary tax raids and freedom of movement, travel and political activity.

Syrians:

— Want Israel to withdraw from all Arab territories. Occupied in 1967 including the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem.

— Would not accept the return of the Golan Heights without a solution to the Palestinian problem.

— Want Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon but has agreed with Beirut that this should be tackled as a separate issue at the Madrid talks.

— Rule out multilateral talks on secondary issues until Israel

agrees to withdraw from Arab lands.

Jordanians:

Attending in a joint delegation with the Palestinians, Jordan:

— Will use the conference to demand an Israeli pullout from the occupied territories including East Jerusalem. The Kingdom has the largest concentration of Palestinians outside the territories. Most fled after the 1948 and 1967 wars.

— Wants a halt to Israeli settlements in the territories.

— Seeks progress on an Israeli withdrawal to help tackle one of its main concerns — water. The Kingdom has a perpetual water shortage and needs agreement with Israel on joint projects and on supplies shared by East and West Bank.

Lebanese:

Seeking to extend government control over all its territory, Lebanon:

— Wants an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south where about 1,000 Israeli troops and an allied militia hold a 15-kilometre deep "security zone" set up in 1985.

— Demands that the Israeli withdrawal be treated separately from all other Arab-Israeli problems to prevent it becoming bogged down until everything is solved.

— Says Lebanese army will take control of the south once Israeli troops leave and will stop guerrilla attacks against Israel.

— Rules out multilateral talks on secondary issues until Israel yields on the main question of withdrawing from occupied land.

No precedents to guide Mideast peace negotiators

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

MADRID — Will they shake hands or won't they?

Odds are they won't. But that is only one of many uncertainties in this week's unique attempt to end four decades of Middle East bloodshed at a superpower-sponsored conference in Madrid.

There is no precedent to guide the protagonists to this parity, and given the depth of mistrust and loathing in the Arab-Israeli conflict, procedure could be almost as hard to agree on as substance.

The only previous international conference on Arab-Israeli peace was still-born in Geneva in December 1973. Syria did not show up, Egypt and Jordan refused to sit at the same table as Israel. The talks adjourned after a ceremonial opening.

"Mindful of history in his dogged quest to drag Israel and its neighbours to the negotiating table, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker designed a process with as few details as possible.

Barring last minute boycotts or walkouts, representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians will sit at the same table for three days, with the U.N., Egypt, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Maghreb Union and the European Community attending as observers.

In this age of megaphone diplomacy, the conference will be televised live.

It is a far cry from the seclusion in which Egypt and Israel negotiated their 1979 peace treaty in the log cabins of the U.S. President Jimmy Carter's Camp David retreat.

There will be no anthems, flags or country names, to avoid Israel taking umbrage at the word "Palestine." Even the shape of the table is still unknown.

Photographers allowed to enter the chilly, marble-columned Real where the talks will be held found it empty on Monday.

U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the sponsors, and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, the host, will deliver opening addresses on Wednesday.

Then the heads of delegations are due to speak. Mr. Baker said the United States will lay down the order of speakers, time limits and procedure when the meeting starts and he expects all parties to abide by the rules.

But jousting is already under way. Israel demands that the Jordanians and Palestinians, who form a joint delegation, be restricted to a single speech-time. And it threatens to walk out if the Palestinians declare their alleg-

iance to the PLO.

On Sunday, bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations are due to open at separate locations, still to be agreed, around Madrid. What happens after that is anyone's guess.

It seems highly unlikely that most Arab delegates will shake hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the only head of government to lead his country's delegation.

Asked this month whether he would shake the hand of his Israeli counterpart, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said: "I will tell you frankly, no. Simply because this very hand... that you would like me to shake is very guilty. It's a hand which occupies our lands, ignores the Palestinian national rights and for the last decades we have been suffering from this constant occupation and the Palestinians in the occupied territories have been suffering from constant repression."

Mr. Baker, sitting beside Mr. Shara, said diplomatically: "The handshakes come later in the process."

But will Mr. Shamir extend his hand for shaking?

His spokesman, Ehad Gol, squeezed a propaganda point from the answer: "We always offer our hand for peace."

Middle East, cauldron of conflict for four decades

MADRID (R) — The Middle East has been a cauldron of conflict since the birth of Israel in 1948.

It has taken 43 years, nearly two decades of U.S. shuttle diplomacy, five wars involving the Jewish state and a sixth between Iraq and a Western-led alliance to bring Arabs and Israelis to the Madrid peace conference.

Here is a chronology of key events:

1897 — The first world Zionist Congress, convened in Basle by Theodor Herzl, sets the aim of creating a home in Palestine for Jews.

1917 — British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour, in Balfour Declaration, tells Zionist leader Lord Rothschild that Britain will help establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Five years later the League of Nations gives Britain a mandate over Palestine, recognising the aims of the Zionist movement.

1922-1947 — Hundreds of thousands of Jews, many of them fugitives from Nazi persecution, settle in Palestine, stoking Arab fears that the intention is to drive Arabs out.

1947 — United Nations recommends the partition of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state.

May 1948 — With the withdrawal of British troops, Jewish settlers proclaim the independent state of Israel. War breaks out with Arab neighbours. Israel annexes large tracts of proposed Arab state. Only the West Bank (under Jordanian administration) and the Gaza Strip (under Egyptian administration) remain in Arab hands.

1956 — Egypt's President Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalises Suez Canal. Israel attacks Sinai Peninsula on Oct. 29, pushes

towards Canal. Anglo-French troops invade Egypt, withdraw under U.S. pressure.

1964 — Arab states create the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as nationalist movement. Yasser Arafat's movement Fatah carries out its first operation against Israel the following year.

June 1967 — Israel attacks Egypt, Syria and Jordan in what it says is a preemptive strike. In a six-day war, Israel captures Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt, Golan Heights from Syria, and West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan.

Nov. 1967 — U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 242, calling for Israeli withdrawal, recognition of all states in the area and a just settlement of refugee problem.

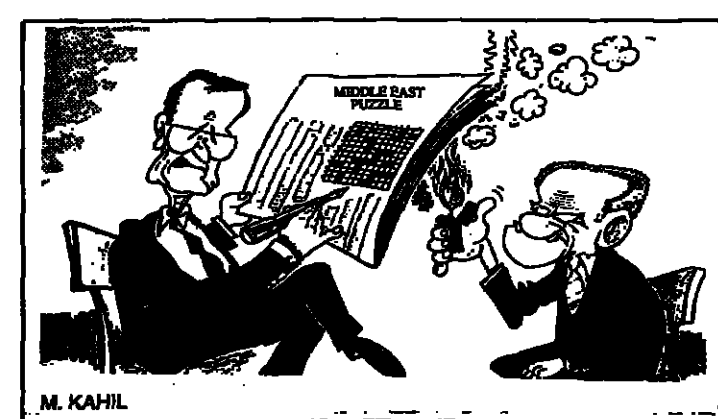
1969 — Fatah, its popularity boosted by guerrilla attacks on Israel, takes control of PLO and Mr. Arafat becomes PLO chairman, a post he still holds.

1970 — Increasing strength of guerrilla groups in Jordan and succession of plane hijackings designed to publicise the Palestinian cause lead to conflict with the Jordanian army. Army wins, guerrillas take refuge in Lebanon.

Oct. 6, 1973 — Egypt and Syria attack Israeli forces in Sinai and Golan Heights on the Jewish fast of Yom Kippur with intention of regaining occupied territory. The war is inconclusive.

Oct. 22, 1973 — U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 338 calling for a ceasefire, implementation of Resolution 242 and immediate negotiations "under appropriate auspices" to establish a just and lasting Middle East peace.

1974 — Arab states recognise PLO as sole legitimate repre-



sentative of the Palestinian people.

1977 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat goes to Jerusalem in a dramatic peace bid. Other Arabs denounce him as a traitor.

Sept. 1978 — Egypt, Israel and the United States sign Camp David accords, offering limited autonomy to Palestinians in occupied territories. Israel continues to refuse to deal with PLO and PLO rejects autonomy.

1979 — Israel and Egypt sign a peace treaty in Washington under which Israel agrees to hand back the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. It keeps the Gaza Strip. Arab states impose boycott on Egypt.

1980 — European Community, in Venice Declaration, says PLO must be associated with any Middle East peace negotiations.

June 1982 — Israel invades Lebanon to drive out Palestinian guerrillas threatening its northern border, besieges Beirut. Mr. Arafat and followers forced to disperse through Arab World.

Nov. 1982 — Arab summit in Fez gives implicit recognition of Israel by demanding withdrawal only from territories occupied in 1967.

1983 — Syrian-backed rebel-

lion against Mr. Arafat breaks out in ranks of Fatah in eastern Lebanon. Mr. Arafat and supporters forced to leave Lebanon for second time. Episode sours relations between Mr. Arafat and Syrian government.

Dec. 1987 — Palestinian uprising — the intifada — against Israeli rule starts in West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Nov. 1988 — Palestine National Council declares a Palestinian state and implicitly recognises Israel by endorsing U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

Dec. 1988 — Mr. Arafat recognises Israel's right to exist and renounces terrorism, leading to the first formal contacts between the PLO and the United States in 13 years.

May 1989 — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir presents a four-point plan based on holding elections in the occupied territories. It rules out talks with the PLO and an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It calls for an end to the state of war between Israel and Arab states and an end to the Arab boycott of Israel.

Sept. 1989 — Egypt seeks assurances on 10 points in the

Shamir plan and offers to host preliminary discussions between Israeli and Palestinian representatives.

Oct. 1989 — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker presents a five-point plan, a synthesis of the Israeli and Egyptian ideas aimed at a tripartite Israel-U.S.-Egyptian meeting to set up Israeli-Palestinian talks.

March 1990 — Mr. Shamir loses parliamentary no-confidence vote called by Labour Party which booted a unity government over Mr. Shamir's refusal to accept Mr. Baker's plan.

June 1990 — Mr. Shamir forms right-wing coalition government and rejects the Baker plan. U.S. suspends dialogue with the PLO after failed raid against Israel by a PLO faction in May.

Aug. 1990 — Iraq invades Kuwait. Mr. Arafat alienates West by expressing support for President Saddam Hussein.

March 1991 — U.S. President Bush says Gulf war victory opens "window of opportunity" for resolution of Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Baker to Middle East on first of eight post-Gulf war peace missions.

April 1991 — Mr. Baker makes two trips, seeks support for regional peace talks. Arabs and Israelis divided over U.N. role and scope of conference.

May, 1991 — Mr. Baker makes fourth trip, says there are more areas of agreement than disagreement. Mr. Bush proposes ban on weapons of mass destruction in Middle East.

July 1991 — Syria accepts U.S. compromise proposals for a silent U.N. role in peace talks. Mr. Baker returns to Middle East. Arabs offer to suspend economic boycott if Israelis end settlement of occupied land.

Aug. 1991 — Mr. Baker carries

proposals for Middle East conference by end of October to Jerusalem from Bush-Gorbachev Moscow summit. Mr. Shamir agrees to attend as long as issue of who represents Palestinians is settled.

Sept. 1991 — Mr. Bush infuriates Israelis by urging 120-day delay on request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees to keep peace talks on track, threatening to veto any congressional action. Mr. Shamir says delay might affect Israel's participation.

Mr. Baker returns to Jerusalem, drafts letters of assurances to Israelis and Palestinians aimed at coaxing them to peace talks, offers compromise plan to settle loan guarantees row. Heads home from Damascus after seventh mission with conference still in balance.

Mr. Arafat says he ready to lift obstacles to peace talks.

Oct. 14-19 — Mr. Baker on eighth mission calls on Palestinians not to miss peace bus. PLO Central Council votes in favour of conference. Mr. Baker crowns eight months of diplomacy with invitations to Israel and Arab foes to talks in Madrid starting on Oct. 30.

Oct. 20 — Israeli cabinet says yes to U.S.-Soviet-sponsored peace conference after Syria, Jordan and Lebanon agree to attend. Egypt, the six Gulf Arab states, five North African states and the European Community to attend as observers.

Oct. 22 — Palestinians name 14-strong team for talks and seven-member group to advise from behind the scenes.

Oct. 23 — Mr. Shamir says he will lead Israeli delegation to Madrid, pushing aside more moderate foreign minister.

Oct. 25 — Israel names peace talks team dominated by hawks.

Profiles of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation participating at the Madrid peace conference:

The Jordanian delegates:

Name and Age: Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, 59
Head of the joint delegation and member of the Jordanian delegation.
Born: Salt, Jordan
Current post: Minister of Foreign Affairs.
Education: Ph.D., Political Science, Syracuse University, U.S. Former dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce, University of Jordan; former director, University of Jordan Centre for Strategic Studies; former minister of national economy.

Name and Age: Dr. Abdul Salam Atallah Majali, 66
Born: Karak, Jordan
Current Post: Advisor, Jordan University for Women.
Education: M.D., Medical College, Syrian University, Damascus, Syria. Former President, University of Jordan; former Minister of Education; former Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs.

Name and Age: Mr. Anwar Al Khatib, 74
Born: Hebron, West Bank
Current Post: Retired lawyer.
Education: Licence de Droit, Law School of Jerusalem.
Former mayor of Jerusalem; former president, Higher Islamic Council; thrice Minister of National Economy.

Name and Age: Mr. Awad Khalidi, 59
Born: Al Khaldyeh, Jordan
Current Post: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to the Republic of France.
Education: Graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies, England. Former Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to Greece.

Name and Age: Mr. Talal Hassan, 52
Born: Irbid, Jordan
Current Post: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium.
Education: Licence de Droit,

Damascus University, Syria. Former Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to Tunisia.

Name and Age: Dr. Mohammad A. Al Adwan, 48
Born: South Shuneh, Jordan
Current Post: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to the USSR, and non-resident ambassador to Poland and Finland.
Education: Ph.D., Political Science, University of Colorado, U.S.
Former Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to Spain; former Director of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein's Office; former vice president, Jordan Valley Authority.

Name and age: Mr. Fouad N. Ayoub, 47
Born: Amman, Jordan
Current Post: Appointed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's ambassador to the Court of St. James.
Education: M.A., Philosophy, California State University at San Francisco, U.S.
Former press secretary to His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal.

Name and Age: Major-General Abdul Hafiz Marei, 55
Born: Madaba, Jordan
Current Post: Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Jordan Armed Forces.
Education: M.Sc., Military Science, Royal College of Defence Studies, England; graduate of the Royal Military Academy, Jordan. In 1962, awarded the Medal of Gallantry, Jordan's highest decoration for heroism in battle.

Name and Age: Professor Walid Khalidi, 66
Born: Jerusalem
Current Post: Senior research fellow, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University.
Education: Graduate of University of London and Oxford University, England; former lecturer, Oxford University; a founding member of the Institute of Palestine Studies; co-founder of the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan.

Name and Age: Dr. Adnan M. Al Bakhit, 50
Born: Mahes, Jordan
Current Post: Vice President for Humanities, University of Jordan.
Education: Ph.D., Islamic History, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, England.
Professor of History, University of Jordan (1978-present).

Name and Age: Dr. Mohammad Bani-Hani, 53
Born: Irbid, Jordan
Current Post: Secretary General, Ministry of Municipalities, Rural Affairs and Environment.
Education: Ph.D., Hydraulic Engineering, Belgrade University, Yugoslavia.
Former Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority.

Name and Age: Mr. Awn Khasawneh, 41
Born: Amman, Jordan
Current Post: Legal advisor to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.
Education: M.A./L.L.B., International Law, Cambridge University, England.
Member, United Nations International Law Committee; member, United Nations Subcommittee for the Protection of Minorities and the Prevention of Discrimination.

Name and Age: Dr. Musa Breizat, 41
Born: Madaba, Jordan
Current Post: Political Advisor to the Royal Hashemite Court.
Education: Ph.D., Political Science, New York University, U.S.
Former officer at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Name and Age: Dr. Ghassan Al Jundi, 37
Born: Amman-Jordan
Current Post: Associate professor, Faculty of Law, University of Jordan.
Education: Ph.D., Law, University of Social Sciences, Grenoble, France. Former advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Palestinian delegates
Name and Age: Dr. Haidar

Abdul Al Shafi, 72
Head of the Palestinian delegation.
Born: Gaza
Current Post: Medical doctor and president, Palestine Red Crescent.
Education: M.D., American University of Beirut, Lebanon.
Former speaker of the Palestinian Parliament while Gaza was under Egyptian rule (1949-1967). Expelled from Gaza by the Israeli occupation authorities for political activities.

Name and Age: Dr. Zakaria Agha, 49
Born: Gaza
Current Post: Medical doctor, Head of Internal Medicine, Ahli Hospital, Gaza.
Education: M.D., Internal Medicine, University of Cairo, Egypt.
President, Gaza Medical Association. Prohibited, by the Israeli occupation authorities, from travelling out of the occupied territories for nine years.

Name and Age: Mr. Fehi Abu Meddin, 47
Born: Gaza
Current Post: Lawyer and president, Gaza Bar Association.
Education: Licence de Droit, University of Alexandria, Egypt.
Member, Higher Council of Education, Gaza.

Name and Age: Dr. Abdul Rahman Hamad, 45
Born: Beit Hanun, Gaza
Current Post: Dean, School of Engineering, Bir Zeit University, West Bank.
Education: Ph.D., Electrical Engineering, University of Wisconsin, U.S.

Name and Age: Mr. Elias Freij, 71
Born: Bethlehem, West Bank
Current Post: Mayor of Bethlehem (since 1972).
Education: Graduate of Zion High School, Jerusalem.
Former Chairman, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce.

Name and Age: Professor Nabil Qasbi, 44
Born: Ramallah, West Bank.

Current Post: Professor of Physics, Bir Zeit University, West Bank.
Education: Ph.D., Physics, American University of Beirut, Lebanon.
Former vice president, Academic Affairs, Bir Zeit University.

Name and Age: Professor Ghassan Al Khatib, 36
Born: Nablus, West Bank
Current Post: Professor of Economics, Bir Zeit University, West Bank.
Education: M.A., Economic Development, University of Manchester, England.
Owner of the Jerusalem-based Press Communications Centre. Imprisoned by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1979 for one month, for political activities.

Name and Age: Dr. Saeb Erekat, 36
Born: Abu Dis, Jerusalem
Current Post: Professor of Political Science, Al Najah University, West Bank.
Education: Ph.D., International Relations, Bradford University, England. Editorial writer for the Palestinian Arabic daily newspaper Al Quds.

Name and Age: Dr. Samir Abdullah, 41
Born: Abu Qash, Ramallah, West Bank.
Current Post: Lecturer, Economics, Al Najah University West Bank.
Education: Ph.D., Economics, University of Prague, Czechoslovakia. Secretary of the Arab Thought Forum, Jerusalem.

Name and Age: Mr. Sameh Kanaan, 38
Born: Nablus, West Bank.
Current Post: Businessman, Nablus Chamber of Commerce, West Bank.
Education: Graduate of Salhiyyeh High School, Nablus, West Bank. Imprisoned by the Israeli occupation authorities for 12 years for political activities.

Name and Age: Mr. Sami Kilani, 42
Born: Yabod-Jenin, West Bank.

Current Post: Lecturer, Al Najah University, West Bank.
Education: M.Sc., Science Education, Al Najah University, West Bank.
A renowned poet and writer. Member, Palestinian Writers Union and Palestinian Teachers Union.

Name and Age: Mustapha Nasseh, 52
Born: Hebron, West Bank.
Current Post: Civil engineer.
Education: B.Sc., Civil Engineering, University of Cairo, Egypt.
Former mayor of Hebron.

Name and Age: Dr. Nabil Jaabari, 43
Born: Hebron, West Bank.
Current Post: Dentist & president of the Hebron University Board of Trustees.
Education: D.D., University of London, England.

Name and Age: Dr. Mahmoud Aker, 47
Born: Nablus, West Bank
Current Post: Surgeon.
Education: M.D., Royal College of Surgeons, University of Edinburgh, Scotland.
Member, Board of Trustees, Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre.

The Palestinian Guidance Committee

Name and Age: Mr. Faisal Husseini, 50
Head of Palestinian Guidance Committee.
Current Post: President, Arab Studies Society, Jerusalem.
Education: Post graduate studies, History Department, University of Beirut, Lebanon.
Member, Palestinian delegation that held preparatory talks (re: the Middle East peace conference) with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Name and Age: Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, 45
Current Post: Professor, English Literature, University of Bir Zeit, West Bank.
Education: Ph.D., English Literature, University of Virginia.

U.S. Member, Palestinian delegation that held preparatory talks (re: the Middle East peace conference) with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Name and Age: Ms. Zahira Kamal, 46
Current Post: President of the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committees.
Education: B.Sc., Physics, Ain Shams University, Cairo.
Former teacher, UNRWA Teachers College, Ramallah, West Bank.

Prohibited, by the Israeli occupation authorities, from travelling out of the occupied territories for four years.

Name and Age: Dr. Rashid Khalidi, 43
Current Post: Associate professor, Modern Middle East History and Director, Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Chicago, U.S.
Education: Ph.D., Political Science, Oxford University, England.

Name and Age: Mr. Anis Al Qassem, 60
Current Post: Palestinian lawyer residing in London.

PEACE CONFERENCE



CNN

24 HOURS AT AL-RUDHA PUB

Now!

فندق فيلادلفيا

The Philadelphia

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL MANAGEMENT GROUP

Tel. 663100 Amman Jordan.

Palestinians see autonomy as step

(Continued from page 1)
 she added: "The direct talks" are expected to start on Sunday or Monday.

Dr. Ashrawi dismissed Israeli allegations that she was personally responsible for an attack on a bus carrying Jewish settlers in the West Bank Monday. Two Israelis were killed.

"In no statement, whether as spokesperson or as an individual, have I ever called for violence or supported violent acts," she said. Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens told Israel Radio on Tuesday Dr. Ashrawi advocated violence and "apparently the murderers of last night were people operating under her direction."

Dr. Abdul Shafi told reporters violence might stop when Palestinians in the occupied territories felt there was progress in peace talks.

Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein avoided questions on the relationship between them and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which Israel has succeeded in excluding from the conference.

A PLO delegation led by Nabil Shaath, senior political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, arrived in Madrid on Tuesday.

The PLO, which already has a diplomatic mission in Madrid, can have overt contact with the other Arab delegations.

The two halves of the team have won the right to equal time to air their views in public session Thursday, despite an Israeli attempt to change the mind of the organisers.

The Palestinian delegates say this amounts to recognition as a separate entity after decades of Israeli claims that the Palestinians have no national rights.

"Our presence gives the lie to the old saying — a land without a people for a people without a land," said Mr. Hussein.

"The big lie is about to be buried — that the Palestinians do not exist," said delegate Saeb Erekat.

Dr. Ashrawi, responding to repeated U.S. insistence that Americans cannot impose a settlement in the Middle East, said, "they are being very modest. Left to our own devices we cannot make peace alone. The conflict has been too long and too bitter."

"That's why we need a third party and that must be the international community," she added.

Asked what the Palestinians were seeking, Mr. Hussein said: "Autonomy for an interim period that will move us, Palestinians, from a people under occupation to a people with full independence and a Palestinian independent state that will later join in a confederation with Jordan."

Mr. Erekat said he has "no doubt whatsoever in my mind that eventually there will be an independent Palestinian state."

For an interim period, the Palestinians would accept the self-rule which they violently opposed when it was first offered during the Israeli-Egyptian peace process in 1978.

The extent and duration of autonomy would be left open to discussion.

Bush and Gorbachev pledge all efforts

(Continued from page 1)

The two leaders met for about two hours. Mr. Bush expressed his gratitude to Mr. Gorbachev for playing "a very constructive role" in bringing about the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. Bush also said the two sides would begin fresh talks in the near future on further cuts in nuclear arms control arsenals. Each man has outlined a series of unilateral steps to curb nuclear arsenals in the wake of a failed hardline communist coup last August.

The president said the two men also want to go forward with ratification of two existing arms control treaties covering long-range nuclear weapons and conventional forces in Europe.

Mr. Bush said the two men also talked about possible food aid to the Soviet Union, which is in dire economic straits.

"No specifics have been agreed on," he said. Mr. Bush said he and the

Soviet leader had agreed to renew arms control talks in the wake of unilateral cutbacks that each man announced following the abortive anti-Gorbachev coup last August.

"Our schedules are very close," Mr. Bush said of the U.S.-Soviet arms proposals. He said the two men want to go forward with ratification of two existing arms control treaties covering long-range nuclear weapons and conventional forces in Europe.

Mr. Gorbachev described the meeting as a "very convenient opportunity in order to ... synchronise our watches."

It seemed a routine comment — yet remarkable because it underscored the extent to which the United States and the Soviet Union have become regular partners in a range of diplomatic initiatives ranging from arms control to the Middle East peace conference.

On the Middle East, Mr. Gor-

bachev vowed an active role for the two nations that are sponsoring the peace talks.

Mr. Gorbachev bristled when a Soviet reporter asked who was in charge in Moscow while he was in Spain. "I'm still the president. Nobody's taking my place," said the Soviet president, who is confronting challenges to his power from restive republics.

Mr. Bush complimented Mr. Gorbachev on the way he had answered questions when the news conference was over, and said, "you're still a master."

Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Bush were joining Spanish King Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez for dinner Tuesday.

"We agreed that having opened this conference and having left Madrid we do not at all expect to be somewhere on the side," Mr. Gorbachev said. "On the contrary we expect to try to facilitate as much as possible" among Israel and Arab states and Palestinians.

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
 Tel. 604070 604096
 P.O. Box 7806 AMMAN

4 Rent & Sale

Many villas and apartments are available for rent and sale - furnished or unfurnished.

Also many lots of land are available for sale.

For further details, please call

Abdoun Real Estate
 Tel. 810095, 810096, Fax: 810520

RENT Distinctive

Villas Apartments Flats in ROYAL WEST AMMAN

real estate "R" US

Just call NIDAL 693037

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service

Develop your colour film at our shop and get:-

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free Metal Frame 13 x 18 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
 Sweifich tel: 823891

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RENT IN WEST AMMAN

CALL SOHA AT

Saudi Real Estate 687821/22

CROWN INT'L EST.

Packing, shipping, forwarding, storage, clearing, door-to-door service

Air, Sea and Land

Agents all over the world
 Tel: 664090
 Fax: 690852
 P.O. Box 926487 Amman

فندق ريجنسي هيلز
 The Regency Palace Hotel

LOBBY LOUNGE

PIANO ENTERTAINMENT

Live Olivier Music

French Cuisine
 Cocktail Bar
 819564 - Abdoun

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Al-Hayyeh Girls School

Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
 6:30-Midnight
 Tel. 630968

PEKING RESTAURANT

AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE

elegant colorful atmosphere moderate prices

shemaisani tel: 604090 (now open daily)

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only

Tel: 818214

Come and taste our specialties

Open daily 12:00 - 3:30 p.m.
 6:30 - Midnight

MANDARIN RESTAURANT

Special Chinese Foods Skilled Chinese Chefs

Open 11:30-3:30 & 6:30-11:30 daily

Take away is available

Wadi Sagra Road near Philadelphia Hotel
 Tel. 681822, Amman

Great Tasted Always Loved

The First Class Hotel in Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL

Amman - Tel. 688193
 P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
 Telex 23888 DAROTEL JO

Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

THE RANCH STEAK HOUSE

DAILY BUSINESSMAN'S LUNCH

فندق فيلادلفيا
 The Philadelphia

Soup of the Day
 Salad Bar
 Grilled Filet Mignon with potatoes and vegetables
 Dessert, Coffee Or Tea
 Price: J.D. 8.000

For Res. Call 663100 Ext. 113.

For the best for your MONEY ADVERTISE in the

Jordan Times

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.6940	1.6975
Deutsche Mark	1.7179	1.7149
Swiss Franc	1.5065	1.5065
French Franc	5.8605	5.8235
Japanese Yen	132.32	131.93
European Currency Unit	1.1925	1.1938

* USD For STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.25	5.37	5.37	5.50
Sterling Pound	10.37	10.56	10.37	10.31
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.31	9.43	9.43
Swiss Franc	8.06	8.31	8.31	8.31
French Franc	8.90	9.06	9.12	9.18
Japanese Yen	6.37	6.25	6.00	5.75
European Currency Unit	9.62	9.87	9.87	9.90

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals			Date: 29/10/1991		
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ⁺	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	358.90	6.950	Silver	4.07	.090

* 21 Karat
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.1665	1.1725
Deutsche Mark	0.4006	0.4026
Swiss Franc	0.4568	0.4591
French Franc	0.1175	0.1181
Japanese Yen	0.5210	0.5236
Dutch Guilder	0.3555	0.3573
Swedish Krona	0.1100	0.1106
Italian Lira	0.0536	0.0539
Belgian Franc	0.01955	0.01965

* Per 100
Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7990	1.8070
Lebanese Lira	0.0777	0.0780
Saudi Riyal	0.1831	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	0.1866	0.1875
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7600	1.7700
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1875
Greek Drachma	0.3550	0.3650
Cypriot Pound	1.4450	1.4600

* Per 100
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	27/10/1991	Close	28/10/1991	Close
All-Share	123.49		124.05	
Banking Sector	104.03		104.74	
Insurance Sector	125.16		124.71	
Industry Sector	153.19		153.57	
Services Sector	130.96		131.70	

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6978/88	U.S. dollar	0.6880/80
One U.S. dollar	1.1240/45	Canadian dollar	0.7135/45
	1.7135/45	Deutsche mark	1.9315/25
	1.5008/15	Dutch guilder	35.24/28
	5.8450/8500	Swiss franc	128.1/1282
	131.90/132.00	Belgian franc	6.2410/60
	6.2410/60	French franc	6.7150/7200
	6.7150/7200	Italian lire	6.6400/50
	6.6400/50	Japanese yen	358.60/359.10
One ounce of gold	358.60/359.10	Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

MEES says Kuwait faces 'severe management crisis'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Kuwait faces a "severe management crisis" because of its policy reducing the number of foreign workers in the country following the Gulf war, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

"The resulting loss to Kuwait should be seen mainly in terms of skills rather than numbers," MEES said. "Many of those who left were among the most competent and experienced."

Associate editor Andrew Cunningham, who prepared the analysis after visiting Kuwait, also noted that the overall cut in population would translate to lower demand in the economy. "Even taking into account reduced demand for services... the country is facing a severe management crisis," he wrote. He quoted an unidentified "local observer" predicting the Kuwaiti government "may have to soften its line on allowing back foreign workers."

Thousands of Arab and Asian workers fled the oil-rich emirate after Iraq's invasion on Aug. 2, 1990. Those allowed to return have been given short-term work

permits and often are denied residence permits for their families.

Palestinians, seen by the Kuwaitis as Iraqi sympathisers, have been fired from government jobs, and those who fled have not been allowed back.

Many Palestinians did the actual work in keeping ministries running through middle-management positions or ran local businesses. Their numbers have dwindled to about 40,000 from some 400,000 before the war.

The cutback in foreign workers fits neatly with a prewar government goal of reducing Kuwait's dependence on foreigners and increasing the demographic weight of its own 600,000 nationals.

Kuwait's prewar population was about 2.1 million. Its post-war aim is a range of 1.2 million to 1.5 million.

MEES noted it would be difficult for the government to reach its goal of having Kuwaitis make up half of the work force.

Before the war, Kuwaitis made up just 14 per cent of the labour force, and nine in ten were em-

ployed by the government. They constituted just 1.2 per cent of private sector employees, MEES said.

MEES also reported that the longstanding problem of bank debts, accumulated in connection with the 1982 stock market crash, "is expected to reach some sort of conclusion by the end of the year, opening the way for the long-awaited bank mergers."

It said the ministry of finance may set up a special company to purchase the banks' five billion Kuwaiti dinars (\$1.39 billion) in non-performing loans at face value. The move will provide liquidity to the ailing banks and set up a system for debtors to repay the new company over 25 years with no interest.

MEES said that under the plan, debtors would be required to repay their entire loan to the special company. Now, some who genuinely cannot pay can get write-offs.

"This difference may be one reason why the new proposal is receiving close scrutiny before being officially approved," MEES said.

Soviet republics sign debt accord after last-minute hitch

MOSCOW (AP) — The 12 remaining Soviet republics agreed Monday night to share responsibility for repaying the nation's foreign debt, estimated at more than \$65 billion.

The agreement followed two days of talks with deputy finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations. The G-7 group has made the pact one of the conditions necessary for further Western aid to the Soviet Union.

Ten minutes before the "memorandum of understanding" was signed, a sentence was inserted that said the former Soviet republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia also bore some responsibility for the debt.

No representative of the Baltic states signed the document, but leading Soviet economist Grigory Yavlinsky said afterward in an interview with the Associated Press: "There is no doubt the Baltics will sign."

The participation of the Baltics appeared to be a condition that was demanded by the Ukraine.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin angrily stormed out of the closed meeting before the parties signed the memorandum, but then returned and signed it conditionally, before the language on the Baltics was added.

The rest of the republics signed after a clause on the Baltics was inserted.

"There was an oversight," said David Dodge, assistant deputy

finance minister of Canada. "We went all day and we were scrambling at the end and it was very unfortunate because clearly the prime minister of the Ukraine had made a great contribution during the course of the meeting."

"We would very much have liked to have had him around at the completion," Mr. Dodge said.

The signatories declared themselves jointly liable for the debt and made the Soviet foreign economic bank, or its legal successor, full authority to serve as the debt manager, according to the agreement.

They also promised to "pursue policies designed to achieve rapid economic adjustment that promotes their debt servicing capacities, and to cooperate with their foreign creditors..."

The signatories agreed to service the debt "keeping in mind also to hold negotiations and conclude an agreement about participation in paying off debt on a solidarity basis with Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia."

Monday night's pivotal session at the Oktyabrskaya Hotel capped talks in the Kremlin between the G-7 officials and Soviet representatives, including Ivan Silayev, head of the interim national government. The talks had been proposed by the industrial nations at this month's annual meeting in Thailand of the International Monetary Fund and the

World Bank.

"There is concern about the creditworthiness of the former USSR in the credit markets, in large part because of the worry about what would happen under whatever new arrangements they might have in this country," Mr. Dodge said of the Moscow negotiations. "I think they've achieved a lot and it's important for the future in terms of their ability to borrow in the market."

At Sunday's meeting, Mr. Fokin proposed establishing a central bank authorised by the republics to make settlements with their common creditors. He said each republic would pay its share of the foreign debt with payments from a special hard currency account in the bank, which would consist of money received from exports and other funds.

U.N. chief assails rich states for not doing enough for Africa

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Monday there was a widening gap between rhetoric and action on the part of creditor countries dealing with African debt.

He said that positive steps had been taken by some creditor nations but indebtedness of African countries still "hangs like a dark cloud over the continent, obscuring prospects for the renewal of growth."

The secretary-general made his comments at a day-long celebration of African Day devoted to debt relief, initiated by Leon Sullivan, who originated the rules for ending apartheid among employees of American firms in South Africa.

Hundreds of his supporters flooded into the United Nations and scores more listened to the speeches on loudspeakers at a church across the street from the U.N. complex.

In addition to Mr. Sullivan's appearance, the day was marked by speeches from a wide array of international and American political figures, including New York Mayor David Dinkins, Philadelphia Mayor William Goode and General Motors Chairman Robert Stempel.

In his address, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said it was "disheartening to see how, in spite of the widespread recognition of the gravity of the situation... the gap between rhetoric and action remains largely unbridged."

He said there was no single, easy way out "but it is surely

The U.S. leverage over Israel — money

TEL AVIV (R) — Washington's leverage over Israel was laid out for parliament in stark figures ahead of the Madrid peace conference. Despite Israeli boasts of immunity to pressure, American aid matters.

As Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir made final preparations Monday for the Madrid talks, Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai presented a 107 billion shekel (\$44 billion) budget to parliament that counts on U.S. aid to cover half of next year's deficit.

Israel needs Washington to guarantee \$10 billion in loans, which would let it borrow internationally at favourable rates, to cover the costs of absorbing up to a million Soviet immigrants by the middle of the decade.

Over Israeli protests, Washington last month delayed consideration of their request until January. That U.S. club hanging over Israel's head pressured Mr. Shamir to join the peace talks and will pressure him to stay.

"As the prime minister prepares himself for this week's Madrid conference, he may ponder how much stronger Israel's position would have been had his economic house been in order," the right-wing Jerusalem Post newspaper said in an editorial.

Israel's economy displays figures that would alarm most Western countries. Unemployment has moved above 10 per cent and even with extra spending intended to create jobs, the finance ministry predicted unemployment of 14 per cent in two years.

Inflation, hovering close to 20 per cent a year since the U.S. rescue of the Israeli economy in the mid-1980s, has been rising in recent months.

Mr. Mordechai conceded the continuing deficit — projected at 6.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for next year even without the usual last-minute additions to the budget — means inflation will not fall.

The growth in GNP has been largely a product of the rising population — 350,000 Jewish immigrants in two years — rather than per capita growth.

Exports, which must grow for Israel to maintain its high standard of living, are actually projected to fall 2.5 per cent this year.

Those export figures fuelled rumours of a shekel devaluation and caused demand for foreign currency to surge. To shore up the shekel, the Bank of Israel has pushed the prime rate up from 14 to 24 per cent in the past month.

The economic weakness provided U.S. Secretary of State James Baker with a powerful weapon in his final push for Israel to join the peace talks that start Wednesday. Israel's campaign to separate aid and peace efforts convinced no one.

"It is unfortunate that this peace process begins at a moment still laden with tensions in the U.S.-Israel relationship," said a document prepared for the peace talks by Israel's main lobbying body in Washington, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Israeli officials, who had privately boasted they had enough support in Congress to counter what they felt was the hostility of President George Bush, were shocked by the U.S. leader's willingness to take on their Washington lobby — and win decisively.

Although Washington now is also questioning the Jewish state's credit worthiness, Israel is counting on approval for the loan guarantees — \$2 billion a year for five years — when it comes up for consideration in January.

The budget Mr. Mordechai presented assumes Israel will have \$2 billion in foreign loans to cover half the projected 1992 deficit. The budget for 1992 is five per cent higher than the previous year.

Failure to get U.S. guarantees would force Israel to pay higher interest rates on an international market already crowded by demands from many other countries. With the amount needed for immigrants estimated at \$40 billion, it cannot generate the funds at home.

Israel has become addicted to U.S. aid — it already gets annual grants of \$1.8 billion in military aid and \$1.2 billion in economic assistance. Although politicians warn of dependence, it is not an easy habit to break.

Peace in the Middle East could eventually produce a "peace dividend" for Israel, a lowering of defence costs as seen in the United States and Soviet Union. But that is far in the future.

In the cabinet bargaining, Defence Minister Moshe Arens successfully rebuffed Mr. Mordechai's attempts to cut military spending. Instead, the budget slightly raised defence spending, leaving it as the largest item after debt servicing.

Israel's focus now is on maintaining the flow of U.S. funds to underwrite its immigration and defence spending. Washington has already used that leverage and could again.

IATA head says airlines are bleeding to death

NAIROBI (R) — The airline industry is bleeding to death following a huge increase in costs as a result of the Gulf war, IATA Director-General Gunter Eser said Monday.

The head of the International Air Transport Association

(IATA) said the industry faced losses of \$3.7 billion on international services alone in 1991 after recording total losses of \$5.1 billion in 1990.

"I am still not certain that everyone realises just how bad things are," he told delegates to the annual meeting of the 204-member group in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

IATA blames the industry's woes on a doubling of fuel prices and war risk premiums after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

This came on top of rocketing interest charges which accounted for \$3.2 billion in 1990 — an increase of 39 per cent on 1989 — and swallowed up a modest operating surplus on international services for a final loss of \$2.7 billion.

"As we move to the end of the year, the industry is bleeding to death," Mr. Eser said.

Other topics at the two-day meeting include the industry's strategies to cope with route and airport congestion, environmental concerns and the increasing range of taxes imposed on airlines by governments.

"In the financial sector, it's pretty much gloom and doom," said IATA spokesman John Brindley.

Mr. Brindley said businesses and holiday-makers cancelled flights because of the Gulf-related recession and fears of terrorism in late 1990 and early 1991.

Delegates noted that even this year's IATA meeting was less well-attended than in previous years.

IATA predicts a recovery in 1992 with growth of 9.4 per cent in passenger traffic and a steady overall growth rate of 5.6 per cent in 1991 to 1995. Its annual report predicts overall growth of six per cent for freight in 1991 to 1995.

Mr. Eser appealed for a longer term view in the industry, warning against delays in improving infrastructure to reduce the massive problem of congestion — particularly in Europe.

IATA delegates elected Pierre Jean Jeannot, formerly of Air Canada, to the director general's post to replace Mr. Eser when he retired in mid-1992. Another Canadian, Rhys Eytton of Canadian Airlines International, was voted IATA president.

Delegates adopted four main resolutions, covering the issues of the environment, taxation, immigration and freedom of supply.

Signalling particular concern on the issue of taxation, IATA official Edward Spry said: "governments are using taxes to raise funds for their central treasuries, not to improve the air industry."

Aqaba Spa APARTOTEL

Two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, idyllic sea views.
Rate: JD 30 per night
Please call Aqaba, Tel: 313512 * Fax: 314338

FOR RENT

An unfurnished deluxe flat for rent. Consisting of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large kitchen, laundry room, large reception area, 3 terraces, 1 veranda.
Located near Russian and new Spanish embassies.
For appointments call tel: 721000 between 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

FURNISHED FLATS FOR RENT

Two furnished flats. Located in Um Uthainah, each has 3 bedrooms, 2-3 bathrooms, separate C/H and brand new deluxe furniture.
Suitable for diplomatic communities.
The building is new.
Contact tel: 829502

Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 677420

Adel Imam
in
SHAMS
AL ZANATI
(Arabic)

Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

HARD TO KILL



Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Nabil Al Mashini Theatre

Tel: 675571

1. SOMERSAULT TIME PLAY

Shows: daily 8:30 p.m.

2. Children play
THE TREASURE AND THE SEA

Shows: daily 10:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 625135

BIG TOWN

Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

FOR RENT IN ABDOUN

Penthouse, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dining & living, fully furnished (luxury & new). Superb location & nice terrace.
Rent negotiable after visit.
For interested pls call 810303

FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

A ground floor apartment in south Um Uthainah consisting of two bedrooms, salon, dining room, with telephone and central heating.
Excellent furniture.
For details please call tel: 811401

U.N. chief urges enforcement of Yugoslav arms embargo

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The U.N. Secretary-General urged the Security Council Monday to follow up its arms embargo against Yugoslavia and offered U.N. aid for displaced persons, expected to reach 400,000 soon.

In an analysis of the Yugoslav economy, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also said the entire financial life of the country "is in risk of disintegration."

"The killing must stop," the U.N. chief said in his first report on the Yugoslav crisis following a trip to the country by his special envoy, former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Mr. Vance, he said, reported that the embargo on weapons and military equipment imposed by the Security Council on Sept. 25 was being violated.

"Given the gravity of this apparent violation of the decision of the council, its members will no doubt wish to respond appropriately," he said.

France has been considering

asking the 15-member council to impose an oil embargo against the warring parties in Yugoslavia but no action has been taken yet.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he asked the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, to examine "on an urgent basis how her office may act" in Yugoslavia.

He estimated about 300,000 people had been displaced within Yugoslavia and another 100,000 were expected to follow suit by the end of the year.

UNHCR is already active in aiding 35,000 Yugoslav refugees in Hungary. Italy has granted temporary asylum to 5,000 Yugoslavs and Austria has reported 6,000 to 8,000 refugees.

Britain's Lord Carrington, the European Community's mediator on Yugoslavia, Monday told senior diplomats he was pessimistic about prospects for a truce in the country's civil war.

Carrington, who had conferred with Mr. Perez de Cuellar, later briefed the five permanent mem-

bers of the Security Council, diplomats said.

"He was pretty discouraging, quite pessimistic," said one envoy at the talks, which reviewed an EC communiqué threatening Serbia with economic and diplomatic sanctions if it did not agree to EC peace proposals by Tuesday.

Only Serbia has so far rejected an EC plan for the orderly breakup of the Yugoslav Federation.

Lord Carrington was said to have told Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union and China that support from the Security Council would be useful. He also said he planned to talk to the Yugoslav parties again on Nov. 7.

Meanwhile the Yugoslav army Tuesday blasted the Croatian town of Vinkovci with artillery and sporadic fighting was reported elsewhere in the break-away republic.

Croatian radio said a heavy artillery barrage at dawn pounded Vinkovci, where the Serb-led army is trying to drive out Croatian militia forces.

In the port city of Dubrovnik, under siege by the army for 29 days, evacuations of women and children continued overnight. A ship bringing relief supplies was being inspected by the army before being let through a naval blockade.

Some 50,000 men, women and children are trapped in the medieval Croatian port, deemed a world heritage site by the United Nations, with the army camped a kilometre from the walls.

Despite a 10-day ceasefire, fighting has raged around Vukovar and the nearby Danube town of Vukovar for the past week.

Fighting was also reported around Vukovar Tuesday, where some 15,000 Croats have been holding out against an army siege for two months.

The Vukovar hospital is said to be overflowing with wounded but international relief convoys have been unable to reach the town because of the fighting.

N. Korea continues to refuse nuclear inspections

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Communist North Korea has not only refused again to open its secretive nuclear facilities to international inspection, but it has set more conditions for doing so.

Talks will be held in Washington this week to discuss what can be done to pressure North Korea to change its mind.

This renewed recalcitrance by the North Koreans privately disturbs Western officials, who have expressed concern that the North may not only be nearing the potential to produce nuclear arms but seems determined to use the issue as a political weapon.

The nuclear debate is one of the most sensitive issues in North Asia. Inability to resolve it threatens to undermine efforts for lasting peace and stability in the region.

The Foreign Ministry said last weekend that high-level talks in Washington on Oct. 30 would focus on U.S. troop reductions and on U.S. President George Bush's plan to withdraw all sea and land-based nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Military sources said Monday that South Korea will start massive military exercises with the United States this week, and a Seoul newspaper said U.S. troops might use such exercises to remove nuclear warheads.

The announced withdrawal of U.S. weapons was initially seen as a positive step in encouraging North Korea to allow inspections. The North has consistently demanded the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons as a condition for inspections.

U.N. details 'quick fix' measures for Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — A United Nations agency plans to start patching up Cambodia's shattered rail and road network to help repatriate the 350,000 refugees in camps in Thailand, a senior Phnom Penh-based official said.

After the signing of a peace treaty last Wednesday between the Phnom Penh government and its guerrilla rivals, the United Nations is embarking on one of its biggest ever missions to get the country back on its feet and guide it through to elections.

Rajeev Pillay, deputy head of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), said Monday a short-term upgrade of the railway would cost about \$8 million using second-hand materials bought in Thailand.

The railway would serve as a means of bringing in food and assisting in the repatriation," he said.

A U.N. survey mission will arrive in Phnom Penh next month to report on the proposed upgrade.

Unofficial estimates to repair Cambodia's infrastructure, barely running after 13 years of civil war, have been put at \$2 billion.

Mr. Pillay said \$100 million had been set aside for urgently needed rehabilitation and technical assistance programmes.

The UNDP's mandate prevented it from getting involved in huge and costly capital work projects but money could be spent on "stop-gap" measures such as limited repairs to road and rail systems.

"What we can do is put in 'seed money' for certain rehabilitation works that would serve as a means of attracting future funding," he said.

Cambodia's rail network consists of two single line tracks linking the capital with Poipet on the Thai-Cambodian border and another between Phnom Penh and the southwest port of Kompong Som. The track between Sisophon and Poipet has been mostly destroyed.

The country's ancient passenger and goods trains include several steam locomotives built in the 1920s.

Trains run at an average speed of 25 kph (15 mph) because of severely degraded track and bridges, a frequent target of guerrilla attacks.

In Bangkok, the U.N. announced that a mission of the organisation's agencies would leave for Cambodia Thursday for a two-week trip to assess the country's needs.

It will look at the immediate relief problems in food, housing, water, sanitation, health and infrastructure.

It is the first such visit since the peace accord was signed and involves the world food programme, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the U.N. Children's Fund and other agencies.

After it reports back the U.N. will appeal to the world community for funds.

No one knows how much the new U.N. Cambodia operation will cost — but everybody is sure it will be the most expensive in U.N. history.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon has prepared Congress for a bill of more than a billion dollars, of which the United States would pay about 30 per cent. It is hoped Japan will pay at least 25 per cent of the costs and Australia will contribute about 1,000 troops.

Diplomats believe Mr. Solomon, in his recent testimony to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, gave the highest possible estimate, meaning that earlier ball park figures of \$2 to \$5 billion have been discounted.

Column 100000

Mrs. Marcos offers shoes collection for \$10,000 a pair

MANILA (R) — Imelda Marcos is offering to auction off her shoe collection for \$10,000 a pair to raise money for victims of the Mount Pinatubo volcanic eruption in the Philippines. The exiled former Philippine first lady said in a radio interview Tuesday the government of President Corason Aquino had promised to return her collection of 1,200 designer shoes that she left behind when she was ousted in 1986. "I heard the shoes ... will be returned to me. Perhaps it would be good if we auction them so we can have some funds, some money and help the Pinatubo victims," she said. "I only have a few shoes left because charitable groups have been asking for my shoes, organisations from Texas, California, and New York," she added.

China cracks down on prostitution

PEKING (AP) — Authorities are cracking down on prostitution in southern China before the Women's World Soccer Championships are held there next month, official media said Monday. The tournament will be held on Nov. 16-30 in Canton and four nearby cities. China is intent on making a good impression as host of the international competition in an effort to bolster its bid for the summer Olympics in 2000. The official China Daily newspaper said 1,774 prostitutes have been arrested in the crackdown in the southern province of Guangdong. It said police have closed 472 hotels, recreation centres, barber shops, beauty shops and bars that were centres for prostitution. The Communist government nearly succeeded in eliminating prostitution after taking power in 1949, but the practice has returned in recent years with increased exposure to the outside world and greater social mobility.

Swatch watch fetches record \$41,700

LUCERNE, Switzerland (R) — A record price of 62,000 Swiss francs (\$41,700) was recorded for a Swatch fashion watch at an auction in Lucerne at the weekend, organisers said. The watch was one of a limited series of 120 brightly-coloured "Kiki Picasso" models designed by French artist Christian Chapiro in 1983 with his signature on the strap. The plastic Swatch timekeepers, made by Swiss watchmaker SMH, were launched seven years ago to revive a traditional Swiss industry buried under Asian competition. They have been enormously successful with more than 90 million so far sold around the world. Their collectability means they can often soar way above their usual selling price of only 50 francs (\$34). SMH President Nicolas Hayek told a news conference last Friday, the 100 millionth watch was likely to leave the production line next March.

Mother, son reunited after 55 years

ROME (AP) — After 55 years, an elderly woman was reunited with the son she believed had died as an infant, Italian newspapers reported Sunday. In 1936, 19-year-old Anna Maria Mancini delivered a son out of wedlock. Fearing a scandal, her family conspired with the midwife, who told the girl her child was born "dead and horribly deformed," the newspaper reported. The Mancini family put the child away in an orphanage, the papers said. The son was adopted at the age of six and given the name Nello Di Simone. He was unaware of his mother's existence until a colleague at the Fiat car factory in the town of Salsomaggiore told him of his grandparent's conspiracy, the newspapers said. After much research, Di Simone found distant relatives in Canada who provided his long-lost mother's address. He finally met her Saturday, the paper reported. "No one could understand what a mother experiences finding a child she thought dead for 55 years," Mrs. Mancini tearfully told reporters. Mrs. Mancini, married with three daughters, joined her son at his home in Pratola Pelicciola, only a few kilometres from her own house. Mother and son say nobody will keep them apart again. Meanwhile, Italian editors are already speculating the tale will become a bestseller for the sentimental literature market.

Pretoria welcomes call for all-party talks

CAPE TOWN (R) — Chief government negotiator Gerrit Viljoen Monday welcomed a joint call by the African National Congress (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) for all-party talks on South Africa's transition to democracy.

"The government, the (ruling) National Party and most other parties had been ready and eager to start these talks since the beginning of the year," he said in a statement.

Mr. Viljoen, who is minister of constitutional development, did not reject demands by the ANC and the PAC for an interim government and an elected assembly to draft a post-apartheid constitution, but said these should be put up for negotiation.

"It is well known that the government and the National Party propose methods different from those sponsored by the ANC/PAC for dealing with these matters," he said.

President F.W. de Klerk, who began to dismantle apartheid in February 1990, has insisted that his minority government must remain in power until a new constitution has been drafted.

He has also rejected the ANC's call for a one-man, one-vote election of a body to draw up the constitution.

The ANC and the breakaway PAC, which has taken a consistently more radical line since its formation in 1959, were among 92 anti-apartheid groups that agreed Sunday to form a Patriotic Front against Mr. De Klerk's government.

They resolved to demand an immediate all-party congress called by an independent convenor to thrash out details of how South Africa should move from white rule of democracy.

It was the first time that the PAC had agreed to participate in any form of negotiation with the government.

In a final declaration, the groups condemned Mr. De Klerk's government as illegitimate and blamed him for the nationwide township violence that has killed 3,000 people in a year.

"The government rejects (this) with indignation," Mr. Viljoen said. "This is a completely unsubstantiated and unproven statement."

"It is high time that the ANC and PAC candidly consider their own involvement and responsibility in the existing climate of violence," he said.

State-run radio said two men died Monday in the latest incidence of the violence that usually pits ANC supporters against Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

The radio said they were shot while boarding a bus at Mpumalanga, where six people were killed Saturday by a grenade thrown into a wedding feast.

Meanwhile the military leader of South Africa's Ciskei homeland declared a state of emergency Tuesday to curb what he described as acts of terrorism fomented by Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

Military strongman Brigadier Oupa Gqozo said on South African television that emergency rule would be imposed until further notice, "to combat activities of arson and terrorism."

India's ex-premier arrested during protest

AYODHYA, India (R) — Former Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh was arrested Tuesday as he led some 500 supporters to the northern town of Ayodhya to protest a bid by Hindus to take over a disputed mosque.

Mr. Singh was arrested near Ramsnethi Ghat village, about 70 kilometres west of Ayodhya, charged with violating a banning order on the assembly of four or more people.

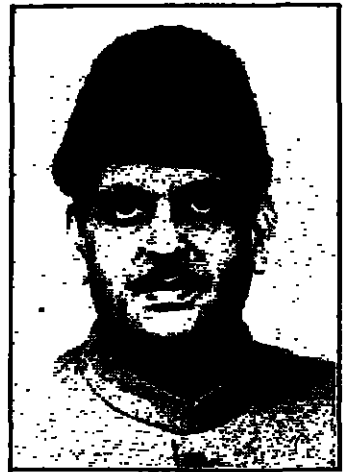
"It is a wrongful arrest," said Mr. Singh, who squatted on the highway after his motorcade was stopped.

Twenty-five members of parliament from Mr. Singh's National Front Alliance and leftist parties were also arrested.

Hindus want to build a temple on the site in Ayodhya of a 450-year-old mosque which Hindus say stands on the birthplace of their god-king Rama. At least 2,000 people have died in riots sparked by the dispute in the past two years.

"We have been prevented from carrying on a peaceful protest. We don't want to confront anyone. We want to exert moral pressure on the government," Mr. Singh said.

Police Superintendent N.B. Singh said charges against the



V.P. Singh former prime minister and his supporters would be dropped if they stopped heading for Ayodhya.

Mr. Singh and his supporters were taken to a government rest house where they sat in protest. They had arrived in a 120-car convoy from Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh state.

Hindu militants camping at Ayodhya threatened to attack Mr. Singh if he entered the temple town.

The dispute was partly responsible for the fall of Mr. Singh's government, which lost a vote of confidence in November 1990 after he ordered a crackdown on Hindu militants. At least 16 people were killed when police fired to prevent militants storming the mosque.

Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), spearheading the campaign to pull down the mosque and build a temple to Rama in its place, said it planned ceremonies to commemorate the anniversary of the crackdown.

Britain, Vietnam sign deal to deport boat people

HONG KONG (R) — Britain and Vietnam have signed a deal in Hanoi allowing the deportation from Hong Kong camps of all boat people denied refugee status, Hong Kong Secretary for Security Alistair Asprey said Tuesday.

"This is a comprehensive agreement covering the return of all non-refugees," Mr. Asprey told a news conference. "It also covers all new arrivals."

He said Britain's ambassador to Hanoi, Peter Williams, signed the agreement Tuesday with Vietnamese officials on behalf of the British and Hong Kong governments.

Mr. Asprey said it would apply initially to boat people arriving in the British colony and details on how to start deporting Vietnamese already here had yet to be hammered out.

"This understanding brings into effect an orderly return programme which will apply initially to all new arrivals found to be illegal immigrants and then subsequently to all other Vietnamese illegal immigrants already in detention centres."

Earlier this month Hanoi and London agreed to start limited deportations, but the deal covered only about 200 boat people out of over 63,000 in Hong Kong camps, and fell far short of Hong Kong officials' hopes of starting forces repatriation for all non-refugees.

Soviet forces to remain until Baltics can afford to move them

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Red Army soldiers must remain in the independent Baltic republics until they have a place to resettle, and Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia can help build cities for the troops in the Soviet Union, a top Soviet Defence official has said.

"We cannot pull the forces out and have no place to put them. ... They cannot be out in the cold weather and snow," the Soviet Deputy Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, told a news conference.

Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunovs said earlier this month that the Baltic states want the Soviet army out of their capital cities by Dec. 1, a deadline Mr. Grachev called unrealistic.

The earliest the troops could be withdrawn in 1994 or 1995, said Mr. Grachev, whose comments were translated by a Norwegian interpreter.

Mr. Grachev said the Baltic

nations should help pay for cities, houses and garages for the troops in the way Germany has contributed to the relocation of Soviet troops based in former East Germany.

"We have already suggested payment in currency," he said. "If a division pulls out then they (the republics) pay for a city complete with everything needed."

The Baltic republics need to rebuild their economies after 50 years of Communist rule. They have little hard currency and may face fuel shortages and severe economic problems, and may not be able to afford such expenses.

"Then we will have to wait until they become wealthy," said Mr. Grachev.

The Soviet Union has grave economic woes of its own, and Mr. Grachev said moving the troops without having anywhere to put them "would be barbaric."

Russia may build own army if other republics do

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Yeltsin said Monday his Russian Federation had no immediate plans to form its own army but would be forced to do so if other republics pressed ahead with theirs.

"You know that certain republics have announced the formation of national armies. We are in no hurry to do so," the Russian president said in a speech to the Congress of People's Deputies, the republic's highest legislature.

"It makes more sense politically to have joint armed forces in community of sovereign states, with a unified command," Mr. Yeltsin added.

"But if, against our wishes, the process of creating national armies in the republics goes ahead, we'll have no alternative but to form our own Russian army. But that will not be our choice."

The collapse of central Soviet power has prompted 10 out of 12 republics to declare independence. Several, including the powerful Ukraine, have pledged to build their own armies.

Such moves have aroused concern in the West about who would control the world's biggest nuclear arsenal.

Mr. Yeltsin, who led popular opposition to an attempted hard-line coup in August, said the failed putsch had proved the need to create a Russian National Guard.

He gave no details, but officials have said the guard will be a relatively small, highly-trained professional force that would in no way amount to a republican army.

The Russian parliament's Defence Committee was already preparing draft laws on forming the guard, Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Yeltsin set out plans Monday to reduce the Soviet Foreign Ministry to a consultative body, prompting its chief spokesman to warn it would mean the end of the Soviet Union.

"To me the consequences would be that the Soviet Union as a single country would be no more," spokesman Vitaly Churkin told reporters after a regular briefing.

"I for one cannot see one country with 12 different foreign policies. I don't think it can exist," he said.

Mr. Churkin said the Foreign Ministry had not officially reacted to Mr. Yeltsin's proposal and this was his personal view.

He said the plan still had to be approved by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the State Council, a temporary government structure set up after last August's abortive conservative coup.

Mr. Churkin was speaking shortly after Mr. Yeltsin proposed drastic austerity measures for the Russian Republic — including a 90 per cent cut in funding for the Soviet Foreign Ministry — to stop the republic's economic decline.

"We are proposing to reorganise the Soviet Foreign Ministry. It should be the coordinator of the international affairs of the republics, and its size should be about 10 times smaller than it is now," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Yeltsin made his threat to strip power from the Foreign Ministry as Mr. Gorbachev — who still has great international prestige — set off to co-chair a Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Azerbaijan and the Ukraine voted this month to set up their

own armies, and many other republics are creating separate national guards.

"I think it's inevitable as a consequence of that step that there will spring up 12 armed forces on the territory of the former USSR," Mr. Churkin said.

Alluding to fear that Russia, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan or Byelorussia might want to take control of Soviet nuclear weapons on their territory, Mr. Churkin said:

"I don't think that in a situation like this (Mr. Yeltsin's proposal) you can hold centralised control over nuclear forces in this country. That's my personal opinion."

Soviet leaders have frequently tried to reassure the West that Moscow will keep control over the country's nuclear arms.

In London, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan said Monday he would not seek independent control over the Soviet republic's nuclear weapons and that they would remain under joint military control.

"Kazakhstan is among the eight republics that signed the (new Soviet) economic treaty. This treaty declared that there will be one management of the army and this includes nuclear missiles," he told a news conference on the first day of a visit to Britain.

"A separated management of nuclear arms, I do not recognise at all," he added.

Mr. Nazarbayev, one of the key republican leaders who is close to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, was elaborating on a policy he first outlined in the Soviet Union earlier this month.

He is seeking political and economic cooperation between the

Mobutu tells Belgium to withdraw its troops

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — President Mobutu Sese Seko told Belgium to withdraw its troops from Zaire, but opposition leaders pleaded for them to stay, fearing a bloodbath by Mobutu's mutinying troops.

Belgium and France have said they will withdraw their soldiers when a final evacuation of foreigners is complete. Mr. Mobutu's demand Monday appeared to be a face-saving gesture in the face of unprecedented Western pressure to give up power.

This sprawling central African nation is degenerating into chaos, with unpaid soldiers leading civilians in looting and pillaging in the interior.

The crisis erupted with riots in Kinshasa last month. Zaire's mineral-rich economy has collapsed after 26 years of corrupt, repressive dictatorship by Mr. Mobutu.

Belgium, the former colonial power in Zaire, said Monday that it would ask the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to send a peacekeeping force to Zaire. It would replace Belgian and French paratroopers sent last month to safeguard the evacuation of more than 20,000 foreigners after the Sept. 23-24 mutiny.

Some 950 European paratroopers Tuesday continued the evacuation they started a day earlier.

Western governments said the evacuation involves Belgian planes flying from 14 interior towns and cities, ferries across the Congo River from Kinshasa to Congo and from southern river towns to the Atlantic Port of Pointe Noire, and land transport to Kigali, Rwanda.

Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said the European Community supported inviting Afri-

can peacekeepers, but that the Africans could intervene only if Zaire agreed.

Mr. Mobutu has made no comment on the suggestion.

Voice Of Zaire state radio Tuesday quoted Mr. Mobutu as demanding Belgium immediately withdraw its paratroopers.

"The humanitarian mission entrusted to these troops — to protect the evacuation of Belgian nationals to their country — has ended," the radio quoted Mr. Mobutu as saying.

Opposition sources said Mr. Mobutu was expected to continue meetings begun Monday with his archrival, opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi, and other leaders of the Sacred Union Coalition of more than 150 opposition parties.

The latest unrest erupted last week after Mr. Mobutu fired Tshisekedi, whom he appointed Prime Minister under pressure from Western governments after the September riots, and appointed Bernard Mungul-Dika, a minor opposition figure branded a traitor by his colleagues for accepting the post.

Mr. Mobutu has vowed he will not share power with Mr. Tshisekedi, and the Sacred Union has said Mr. Tshisekedi is the only acceptable candidate for prime minister.

However, opposition sources said Monday they were discussing a compromise candidate, Joseph Iléo, an elderly politician who heads the Democratic Social Christian Party.

Belgium, meanwhile, has been pressing the United States to intervene. Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said Monday that Washington could be doing more to force Mobutu to surrender power, suggesting the Zairean strongman still has U.S. support.

إلى